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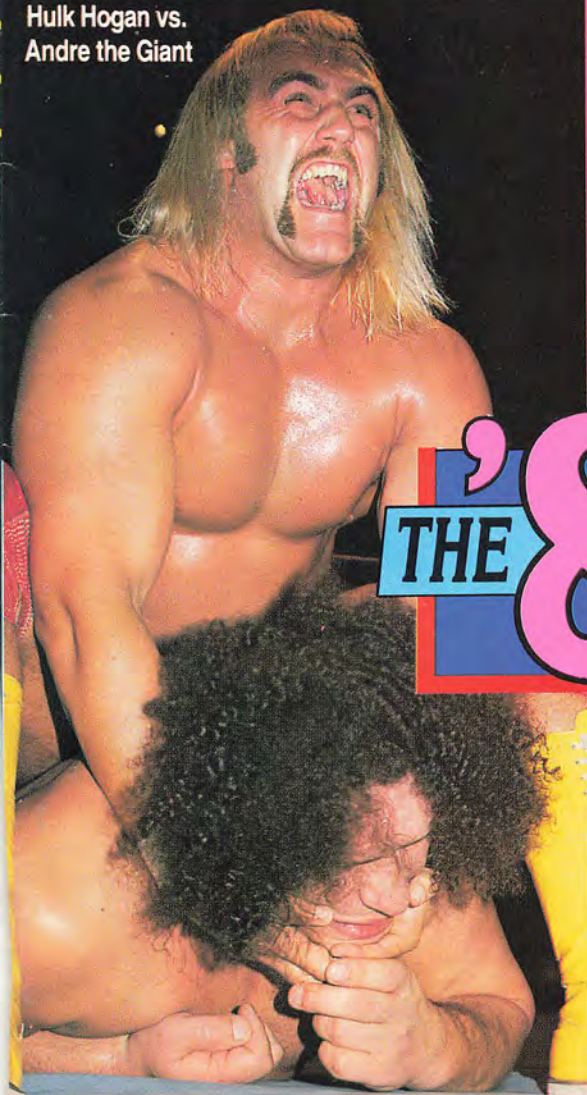
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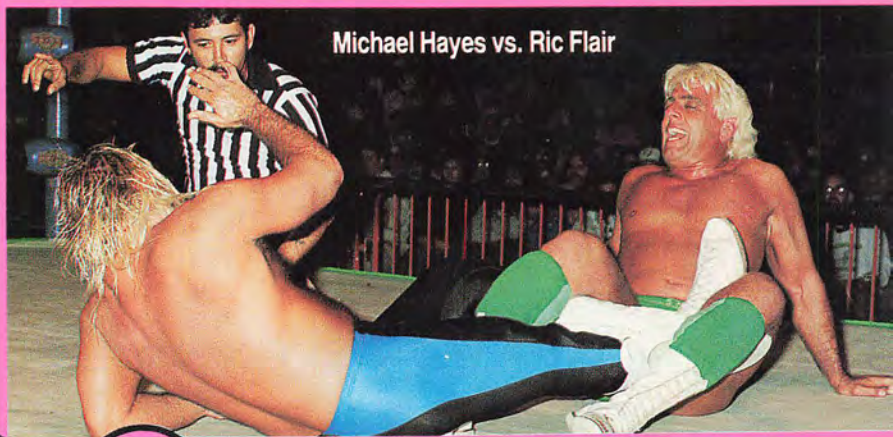
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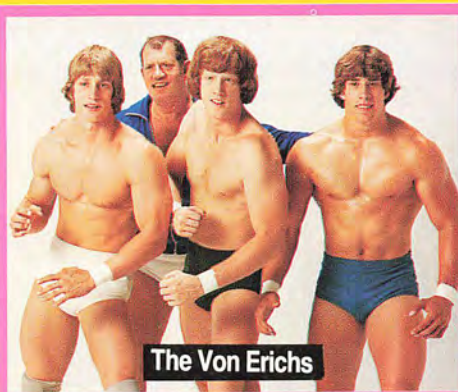


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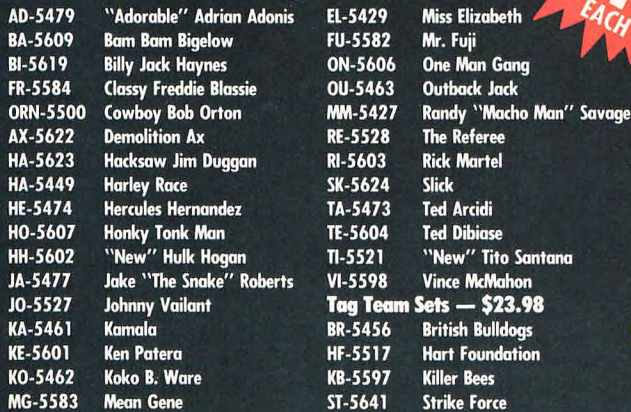


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INSIDE

Wrestling

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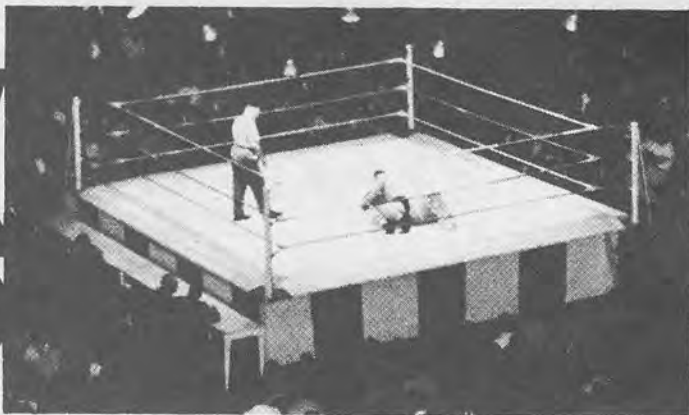
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Next issue on sale February 13

SEND LETTERS TO:

SINCERELY YOURS

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STAN'S THE MAN

I'm writing in response to the article about Hulk Hogan and Stan Hansen in your January 1990 issue ("We've Found Him! The Man Who Can Defeat Hulk Hogan"). Since the "Hulkster" has defeated many of wrestling's top stars over the past several years, I agree that Hansen is one of the select few who could present a challenge to him.

Of course, Hansen is famous for breaking Bruno Sammartino's neck with the lariat back in the '70s. Since then, he has only gotten meaner and more set on tearing through his oppo-

Stan Hansen is big, tough, and mean, but he's not the man to beat Hulk Hogan, writes reader Mike Facciani.

nents. But even though Hansen might come closer than anyone ever has to taking Hogan's title, I think the champion would win in the end. Hogan has been beating everyone for a long time, and he'll keep on doing it.

It would be great if Hansen really did come to the WWF to challenge Hogan. Then all the speculation would end, and we could see this confrontation in real life!

MIKE FACCIANI
Johnstown, PA

Eddie Ellner says Stan Hansen can beat Hulk Hogan, and he might be right. But I hope Stan *never* goes to the WWF. I've seen too many wrestlers openly degrade themselves there, men such as Ron Garvin, Curt Hennig, and Terry Taylor.

I don't want to see Hansen fall into that type of gimmick wrestling. I hope he stays in Japan, where his talents are appreciated.

DARREN KAPLAN
Tacoma, WA

Stan Hansen, that relic from the '70s, beating Hulk Hogan, the premier grappler of modern times? Preposterous!

You guys go ahead and search for a man to beat Hogan. Hulk will survive against anybody you can name.

KEN MORELAND
Boston

EMBRY ANGUISH

I'd like to comment on Joan DeStasio's letter in the January '90 issue ("Embry Saved The Day"). She said that every wrestling fan owes Eric Embry a big debt of gratitude. She also goes on to say that Gen. Skandor Akbar and Tojo Yamamoto have no respect for the rules. And Embry *does*?

Wasn't Embry the man who refused to leave World Class after dropping a loser-leave-town match to Gary Young? Isn't that a rules violation?

Thanks to Embry, all sorts of chaos has taken place in the USWA. Loser-leave-town matches have lost their meaning. Wrestlers are suspended left



Eric Embry rakes Jerry Lawler's face with his boot. Reader John Molinero calls Embry a rulebreaker.

and right. All credibility in the organization has diminished, and it's all because of Eric Embry.

For *that* we owe him gratitude?

JOHN MOLINERO
Burlington, Ontario

The best thing to ever happen to World Class/USWA wrestling was the day Eric Embry came to Texas. I am proud and honored to be an Eric Embry fan and I want everybody—especially Eddie Ellner—to know that Eric is still doing a hell of a job.

Eric is a very special and unique man and he's one in a million.

C.J. BOATMAN
Caddo, OK

STINGING SITUATION

I don't think there's anything wrong with the Sting-Ric Flair friendship that a few more matches together won't cure. The article in your January '90 issue ("Why Sting's Friendship Is Tearing Ric Flair Apart!") raised some interesting questions about Flair's commitment to his new friend, but I think all the worries have been answered now.

Remember "Halloween Havoc '89"? Sting and Flair dominated Terry Funk and The Great Muta. And how about Clash of the Champions IX? Didn't Sting come to Flair's rescue when he was being attacked by The Great Muta and The Dragon Master? All we've seen during the past few months is Sting and Flair supporting each other.

And that support will make them one of the greatest duos in wrestling history.

BEV FRANKLIN
Leola, SC

WICKED WOMAN

Robin Green/Woman may be unimaginably cold and nasty, but let's give the she-devil her due. She has put together one of the most formidable teams in the NWA in Doom, a pair of

masked behemoths who are as big as nose tackles and strong as bulls.

Doom not only threatens the Steiners, but could one day win the NWA World tag team title—but only if woman lets them, that is.

J.G. ARNOLD
Tacoma, WA



Paul E. Dangerously is a brilliant manager, in reader Ken Jones' opinion.

DANGEROUSLY GREAT

I can't believe that Paul E. Dangerously is no longer in the NWA, but the "Hotseat" interview with him in the January '90 issue answered a lot of my questions. There's no doubt that this young man possesses one of the most brilliant managerial minds in the sport today.

You can bet he'll be raising hell somewhere else soon.

KEN JONES
Atlanta

So Paul E. Dangerously is out of the NWA? I think it's the best thing to happen to the federation in a long time. This punk has to be the most overrated manager I've ever seen.

Since Randy Rose and Dennis Condrey won the AWA World tag team title way back in 1987, what has Dangerously won? Nothing! This guy is definitely all talk and no action. I hope he never gets another job as a manager for as long as he lives.

HENRY LAUER
Coventry, CT

(Continued on page 70)



If Woman gives free reign to Doom, they'll not only threaten the Steiners, they'll capture the NWA World tag team title, predicts reader J.G. Arnold.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu
Saks

Editor-in-Chief

The gap between the federations and the fans is getting wider and wider. Will wrestling ever be our sport again?

Back in the early 1970s when I started watching wrestling, all of the promotions—even the NWA, WWF, and AWA—were basically local operations run under strict territorial guidelines. There was a strong identification between federation and fan, and this identification extended to the wrestlers themselves. Bruno Sammartino was our champion, and we felt a natural, authentic relationship with him. It wasn't unusual to go out for a bite to eat after the matches and see the wrestlers shooting the breeze with fans.

So much has changed. The WWF has become a big multimillion-dollar business under the direction of Vince McMahon. Hype, marketing, control of the product, and glitz have taken priority over athletic competition. The NWA has come under the ownership of billionaire Ted Turner, one of the richest men in North America. And while the emphasis on wrestling has remained, marketing and glitz have taken higher priority.

The decade has come to an end. So have many of the independent federations. The failure of independents robs fans in smaller towns of the chance to see the sport live. Wrestlers in independent federations were always a little more willing to sign an autograph and talk to the fans. What happens when they're all gone?

At Inside Wrestling, we've strived to keep you involved in the sport. We want your opinion to mean something. We understand that the relationship between fan and wrestler must be preserved.

Do the federations realize how important this is? Or are we headed toward an era of corporate wrestling? Hasn't big business invaded our lives enough without entering the sport we love?

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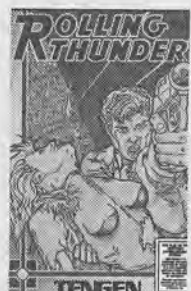
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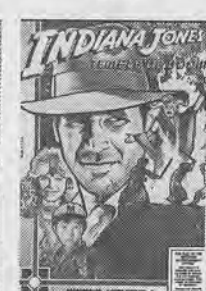
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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David Rosenbaum

PUTTING INTO PRACTICE the theory that if something is awful, do it twice, the WWF planned to give us a double dose of awful on pay-per-view TV in late December with a screening of *No Holds Barred* combined with a "live" taped match pitting Hulk Hogan and Brutus Beefcake against Zeus and Randy Savage.

The movie, which was distributed extensively nationwide but left the theaters quickly after two strong weeks, features Hogan and Zeus and was hailed by critics as being absolutely worthless. Hogan's acting was appalling and the movie's plot was virtually nonexistent.

The bout is a rematch of the main event of SummerSlam '89 at Byrne Meadowlands Arena, which proved beyond doubt that Hogan is far superior to Zeus, both on celluloid and in the ring. You could count on one hand the people waiting for a rematch; they included Zeus, who hungers for publicity to feed his faltering career as an actor; Savage, who will never admit he's been beaten; and Vince McMahon, who will never stop looking for a way to turn his first film venture into a success.

As for "No Holds Barred: The Movie, The Match," anybody who paid \$14.95 (average price nationwide) to order this travesty deserves what he got. The movie has been available in video stores for several months (\$89.95 to purchase this timeless gem; three bucks or less for a rental) and is certainly headed for cable-TV. The most common comment of moviegoers after seeing *No Holds Barred* was, "Five dollars for this?" We already saw the match once and it wasn't very good; the

(Continued on page 64)

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THIS BEING A special "Decade In Review" issue of *Inside Wrestling*, I thought it would be a good opportunity to look back on some of my more memorable moments in "On The Road." I took over this column (from Gary Morgenstein, now working in public television) in the October 1981 issue, so my tenure covers most of the decade. By the way, the dates below are the *cover dates* of the magazine; subtract about four months for calendar dates!

November 1981: Larry Zbyszko rips apart the set of *The Uncle Floyd Show*, a local New York City TV show. The AWA World champion was, at the time, a semi-regular on the program, where he would promote his "Boo On Me" record.



Mascaras crunches Peters

March 1982: Mil Mascaras chiropractically crunches my neck. Two days later, I'm diagnosed as having mononucleosis and I'm out of work for three months. My doctor assures me there's no connection.

August 1983: An early interview with Paul Ellering: "When I invest my time and money in men like [Arn] Anderson and [Matt] Borne, I expect a return on my investment." The Road Warriors had barely made an impression on the tag team scene yet.

March 1984: My first Thanksgiving away from home, at Starrcade '83. "Friends and fans in Greensboro, as everywhere I've traveled," I wrote, "are like family to me. In a way, I suppose, I wound up spending Thanksgiving with a kind of family after all."

July 1985: Amidst all the hype for the first WrestleMania, and the spate of celebrities getting involved in wrestling, I suggest that "the WWF wrestlers themselves will want to cross over into the entertainment world." How impossible it seemed then; how naive it seems now.

May 1986: Steve Williams and Rick Steiner (then known as Rob Rexsteiner), driving from Texas to Louisiana, encounter a fiery automobile/pickup truck collision. Amidst flames and gunfire (the fire was causing ammo in the truck to explode), they pull the door off the car and pull two men out of the front seat and one out of the back seat. The two men in the pickup truck were burned beyond recognition. Said Williams: "We just did what we thought was right. We never thought about telling anybody. I don't think we're anything special because of what we did." Williams added a message to all readers that bears repeating: "For God's sake, *please* buckle up."

February 1988: The stock market plunges 508 points and Paul Ellering *makes money!* "The first thing you

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

have to understand about the stock market," Ellering told me, a person who understands *nothing* about the stock market, "is that nobody ever loses money—or makes money, for that matter—until they actually sell their stock." If you say so, Paul. My one market investment, I never had the chance to sell: The company went belly-up and I lost my entire stake.

Humbug!

June 1988: I speak with Bruiser Brody about his status as the top independent wrestler in the world: "I do

what I want to do, not what some dip promoter tells me to do. The name of the game is independence and money . . . I'm my own man, and as far as I'm concerned, that's what counts most in this life." Brody continued to live life precisely the way he wanted until he was stabbed to death in Puerto Rico in July 1988.

August 1989: I was fortunate to be able to join Rick Steamboat as he watched a tape of his February 1989 NWA World title victory over Ric Flair, a match in which now-hated manager Teddy Long, serving as alternate referee, made the three-count when referee Tommy Young was knocked out. "I was afraid that if I went back and watched the end of the match, I'd see something about Long's three-count that wasn't valid," Steamboat confessed. "That it was too fast, maybe, or something like that." It wasn't, by the way, not in the least.

Speaking of Steamboat and Flair, I have to mention the fact that their May 29, 1984, bout at the Byrne Meadowlands Arena in East Rutherford, New Jersey, was undoubtedly *the* most memorable match of the decade for me. (The most memorable *moment* of the decade was Jimmy Snuka's dive at Bob Backlund from the top of the Madison Square Garden cage on June 28, 1982.)

Why Steamboat vs. Flair?

That card was the first presentation of NWA wrestling in the New York area in 20 years. For several matches on the card, fans were openly hostile. This crowd was pure WWF, and the NWA style was something different that they weren't used to.

Until Steamboat and Flair took to the ring.

As the match wore on, as excellent move followed excellent move, one could virtually feel the crowd coming around. By the time Steamboat bridged up out of a Flair pin attempt—the final element in a lengthy series of moves and countermoves—the crowd was as solidly behind these NWA stars as a sold-out house in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Anybody who thrilled to the excellence of the 1989 series of Steamboat-Flair bouts knows what I'm talking about. □

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NAMES MAKING

IT APPEARS THAT the simmering feud between **Hulk Hogan** and **Zeus** has reached the boiling point. The two giants had not met in the ring since SummerSlam '89 on August 28, but after they locked horns at the Survivor Series on Thanksgiving night in Chicago, it was clear that the former actor got the better of the WWF World champion.

Zeus, a member of **Ted DiBiase's Million-Dollar Team**, which also included **The Powers of Pain**, began the match against Hogan, who led his **Hulkamaniacs** of **Demolition** and **Jake Roberts**. Although he was the eventual winner of the bout by pinning



ZEUS

DiBiase, Hogan was totally ineffective against Zeus. The champion tried a full barrage of offensive maneuvers, but the massive Zeus managed to shrug them all off.

Hogan bounded off the ropes, but was felled by a swipe from the cane of manager **Mr. Fuji**, who was stationed



BRUTUS BEEFCAKE

outside the ring. Zeus then proceeded to wrench Hogan's neck with both hands, and choked him into a state of semiconsciousness. The only thing that saved Hogan was referee **Dave Hebner**, who disqualified Zeus for shoving him aside twice.

Hogan was later brutalized during the bout by a spike-piledriver delivered by **Warlord** and **Barbarian**. In typical Hogan fashion, he overcame both beatings to rally to victory against DiBiase and become the sole survivor, but was again attacked, along with **Brutus Beefcake**, by **Randy Savage**, Zeus, and **Sensational Sherri** in the locker room following the event.

The Beefcake-Hogan tandem was scheduled to meet Zeus and Savage in a steel cage during *No Holds Barred: The Match/The Movie*, a pay-per-view event scheduled for December 27. But that one meeting may not be enough for Hogan, who is vowing to end Zeus' grappling career.

In other Survivor Series results, **The Dream Team**—**Dusty Rhodes**, **Brutus Beefcake**, **Terry Taylor**, and **Tito Santana**—defeated **The Enforcers**, comprised of **Big Bossman**, **Bad News Brown**, **Rick Martel**, and **The Honky Tonk Man** ... **Savage**, **Dino Bravo**, **The Canadian Earthquake**, and **Greg Valentine**, known as **The King's Court**, downed **Hacksaw Duggan**, **Ron Garvin**, **Hercules Hernandez**, and **Bret Hart**, known as the **4 x 4's** ... **The Rude Brood**—**Rick Rude**, **Curt Hennig**, and **Jacques** and **Raymond Rougeau**—downed **Roddy's Rowdies**—**Roddy Piper**,



ARN ANDERSON

The Bushwhackers, and **Jimmy Snuka** ... **The Ultimate Warrior** and his team of **Jim Neidhart** and **The Rockers** upset **Bobby Heenan's Family**, which also included **Andre the Giant**, **Haku**, and **Arn Anderson**.

Speaking of Anderson, he and **Tully Blanchard** were fired by Heenan about two weeks before the Series. Arn has resurfaced in the NWA where he, **Ole Anderson**, and World champion **Ric Flair** have come together in an at-

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

tempt to rid the NWA of **Gary Hart** and his stable of **The Great Muta**, **The Dragon Master**, and **Buzz Sawyer**.

"It's great to be back in the NWA again," said Anderson after making his first appearance at Atlanta's Center Stage Theater. "With me, Ole, and Flair teaming together, it's almost like **The Four Horsemen** are riding high again. Believe me, there ain't gonna be nothin' left of Hart and his stooges once we get through with them."

Tully did not return to the NWA as was expected, and word is that he won't, as long as Arn is siding with Flair.

Nord the Barbarian has returned to the AWA... **Cactus Jack** is currently competing in the NWA... Seven-time NWA World champion **Harley Race** is competing in Puerto Rico for the World Wrestling Council.

Speaking of the WWC, **Carlos Colon** regained the Universal title from



CARLOS COLON

Steve Strong on November 23 in Bayaman, Puerto Rico. The belt had been held up after an October 7 match where Colon defeated Strong, but the two referees assigned had differing opinions on who won the bout. In their rematch, Colon threatened to retire if he lost; Strong vowed to leave the WWC if he was defeated.

"Obviously, I am still around and better than ever," said a joyous Colon in the locker room afterward. "Strong was one of the strongest opponents I have ever faced. I definitely would call him a superstar of the future."

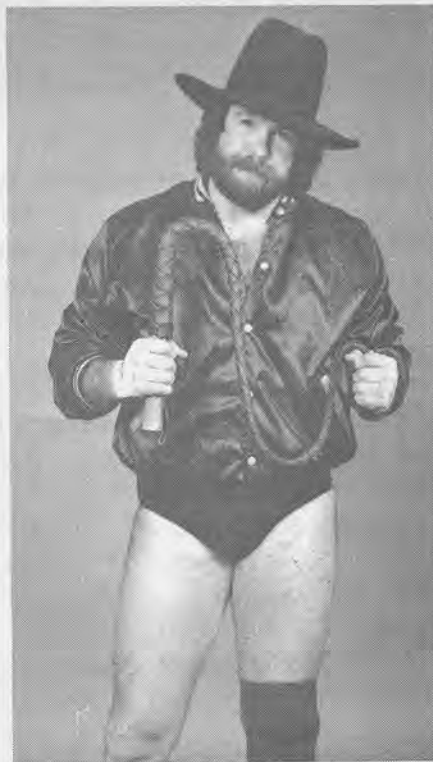
Kevin Von Erich is back wrestling full-time in the USWA, and he's already embroiled in a violent feud with massive **P.Y. Chu-Hi**... Huge Euro-



BIG VAN VADER

pean star **Big Van Vader** is negotiating to wrestle in the AWA, and he's got his sights set on challenging **Sgt. Slaughter**. The 375-pound Denver native, formerly known as **Leon White**, wants to prove to American fans that he's the best big man in the sport.

In one of the most shocking developments in years, **Jerry Lawler** is now as hated by his hometown Memphis fans as he is in the rest of the



DUTCH MANTEL

country. He's been warring with former friend **Dutch Mantel**, and the bad feelings have now spread to **Bill Dundee**, another longtime supporter of "The King."

"The guy's just gone crazy," said an exasperated Dundee. "He's turned his back not only on his fans out there, but he just doesn't give a damn about his friends, either. I'm gonna show him the error of his ways the only way I know how—by wiping the mat with the guy and taking his USWA title in the process."

U.S. wrestling stars will soon be making news in the Orient. **Ric Flair**, **Sting**, and other NWA headliners will be appearing in a huge event at the Tokyo Egg Dome in Japan in February. Also, the WWF will promote its first-ever card in Tokyo during April.

That's all for now, fans. See you at the matches! □

THE

INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

TERRY FUNK HAS announced his retirement before. This time, I was quite sure he meant it because, as I dined with him and his wife in Charlotte, North Carolina, Terry wasn't doing much talking.

"Terry only knows one speed inside the ring, and that's full speed," said his wife, Vicki, who admitted she was not pleased by his recent comeback and is quite thrilled and relieved it's all over. "He can't let up. It's just been too many years and too many lumps—and too many youngsters coming in every day—for him to continue. His heart says yes; his body says Tahiti cruise."

I watched Funk carefully during his wife's monologue. Veteran athletes—and Funk qualifies as one of the proudest—rarely permit their wives to ramble so about their physical shortcomings. But Terry Funk didn't flinch. There was no wistfulness in his voice when he said, "I've had as good a run as anyone. My daddy never did know when to hang up his boots. He never got to see his grandchildren grow up. I got things planned a little differently. I know when it ain't worth the effort. I don't intend to embarrass myself and diminish the Funk



Terry Funk lifts Ric Flair off the canvas during the Great American Bash. Funk was satisfied in retirement, but once he got near the ring again he thirsted to get back in action.

name. I'm done."

Vicki smiled. She had done her time as a "wrestler's wife" and had assumed it was all over. She had seen her man battered and injured, but she had also seen him survive and move on to a successful—and safe—career as an actor. So when Terry told her he was going to be a judge for the Ric Flair-Rick Steamboat title match last May in Nashville, Tennessee, she tried to talk him out of it.

"Terry had been away from the sport a while and was feeling *too* good," Vicki said. "I didn't like the idea of him getting too close to the smell of the action."

Her greatest fears were realized when Terry came into the ring to congratulate Flair for regaining the NWA belt and the two wound up brawling. "I didn't know he was going to go after Flair because I don't think *he* knew until it actually happened," Vicki said as her husband shrugged his shoulders and grinned. "But I knew at that point that I was a 'wrestler's wife' again, and there was no way I was going to be able to talk him out of it."

The feeling among observers (Vicki included) was that Terry Funk was too old and too injured to remain competitive in the ring.

(Continued on page 68)



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A—ON—ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER

AJAMMED AIRPORT, a pair of missed flights, and faster than you can say "turkey pot pie" I found myself home alone on Thanksgiving. I could have crashed a few dinner parties, but didn't feel up to the inevitable interrogations:

"What's Hulk Hogan *really* like?"

"How much money does Ric Flair *really* make?"

"Where does Sting buy his mascara?"

It would be more than I could bear.

A quiet day of football, a good book—maybe a split of champagne—and I'd zap the holiday blues from my system.

My plan didn't quite work. Before long, my cute, quilted walls began to slowly close in on me. Surrounded on all sides by the sounds of digesting turkey, I packed a briefcase and taxied over to the office. "Forget something at work?" quizzed the cabbie. "Want me to wait till you come out?" he asked, clearly unable to grasp the fact that, yes, the poor, frumpled slob in the back of his taxi was going to the office on a family holiday . . . to work. He was obviously anxious to get off work and join his own Thanksgiving feast.

"Uh, oh, yeah," I stammered, embarrassed. "Want to show the folks my latest story. You know how parents are."

The office.

Ugh.

Actually, free of the usual in-



At the *Survivor Series*, Big Bossman chokes Dusty Rhodes with his nightstick as Slick riles up the crowd. Liz Hunter didn't attend the big event; she watched it with a group of kids.

sanity, arguments, and accusations (particularly Eddie Ellner's endless rambling monologues), the office proved quite comforting. I called my parents and assured them I was fine, I was eating, and that I wasn't spending Thanksgiving holed up in some drafty office by my lonesome. Ever suspicious, my father demanded to speak to someone from the dinner party I claimed to be attending; I chided him for his lack of trust.

I then tried calling some of the wrestlers who, of late, had refused to talk to me. I thought: What better time to reach them than on this day of blessing-counting? I had performed endless favors for Rick Rude, Rick Martel, Ronnie Garvin, Terry Taylor, and Dusty Rhodes. By calling them tonight, I was offering them a perfect opportunity to return my favors—heck, I was doing *them* a favor!

Unfortunately, none of them were home. Things were so bad, I had forgotten about the *Survivor Series*.

The Survivor Series! I grabbed my coat and briefcase, took the elevator to the lobby and, five minutes later, was back in a cab trying to hunt down one bar on Long Island that was open on Thanksgiving and bothered to shell out \$19.95 or so for the card. With about 45 minutes to spare and no idea where to go, things weren't looking very good.

Finally, the cabbie came to my rescue. "Come to my house," he said. "The kids love wrestling and, if you're willing to shell out the bucks, I'm willing to get 'em out of my hair for a few hours."

Invitation accepted, although with some reluctance. A bunch of screaming kids and a snoring cab

(Continued on page 66)

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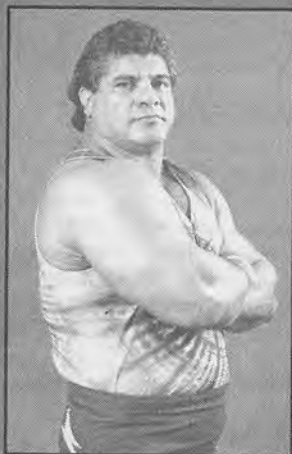
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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

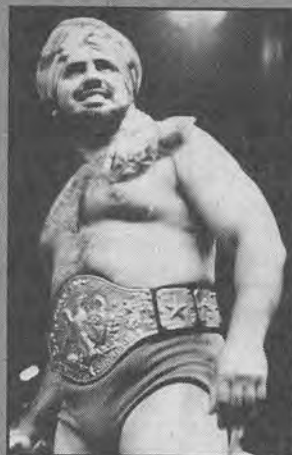
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



DON MURACO

The two-time former WWF Intercontinental champion has slowed down his wrestling career considerably, grappling only on occasion in his native Hawaii. "The Rock" also is planning to open a gymnasium and wrestling training

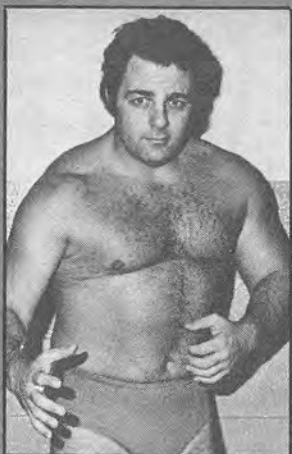
center in the island state. "It's time for the 'Magnificent' one to pursue other options," said Muraco. "But it doesn't mean I'm finished yet, either. I'd love to wear that Intercontinental belt just one more time."



TIGER JEET SINGH

This famous star from India was involved in some of the most violent feuds of the '70s. He feuded with The Sheik in the United States, and warred with Giant Baba and Antonio Inoki in Japan. Today, Singh still

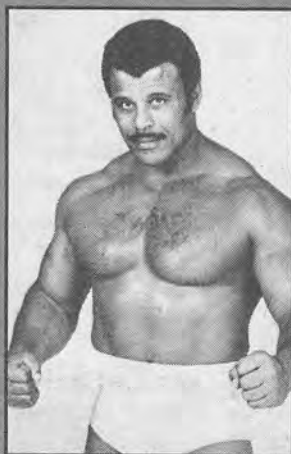
wrestles in the Orient several times per year, but now he prefers to spend his time traveling the world. "Promoters keep asking me to return to America to wrestle, but they just can't come up with enough money," said Singh.



GINO BRITO

The former WWF World tag team champion (with Tony Parisi) announced his retirement in 1988. The popular Canadian is now serving as a promoter in his native country, bringing the top stars of the WWF to the northland on a

regular basis. "It's great to still be involved in wrestling," said Brito recently. "I do admit that I miss all the contact with my fans, though. They are the ones who made me a great success, and I'll never forget them."



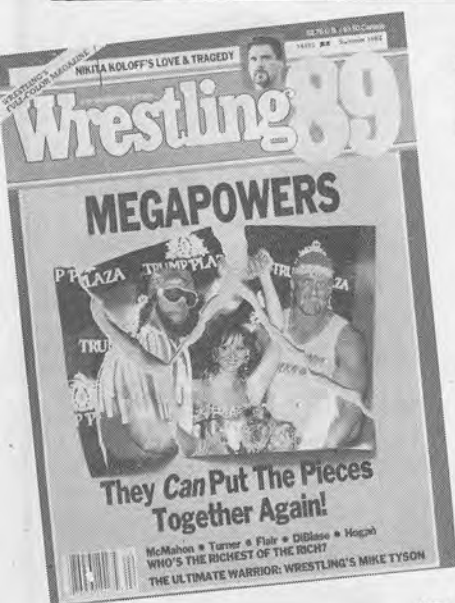
ROCKY JOHNSON

The "Soul Man," who boasts one of the sport's most impressive physiques, still wrestles on independent cards on occasion. But now he spends most of his time with his wife Ata at the restaurant he owns in Bethlehem,

Pennsylvania. The former WWF World tag team champion (with Tony Atlas) is training his son, Duane, for a career in bodybuilding and wrestling. "I had a great career, and now it's Duane's turn," he said.

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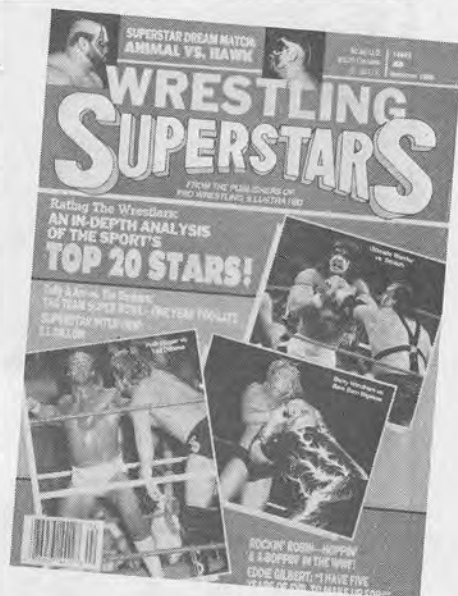
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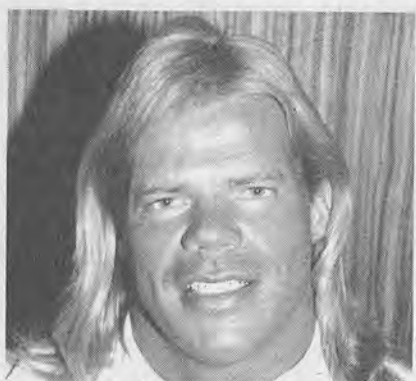
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ST. LOUIS, MO By Bill Fronczak



LEX LUGER
vs.
TOM ZENK



Zenk, substituting for the injured Brian Pillman against Luger, kept the U.S. champion off-balance for most of the match with dropkicks and armdrags, but inadvertently threw the "Total Package" into the referee. Zenk dropkicked Luger out of the ring, but Luger grabbed the U.S. belt, smashed it over Zenk's head, and covered him for the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Ric Flair defeated The Great Muta by DQ ... Rick and Scott Steiner defeated Doom by DQ ... The Midnight Express defeated The Dynamic Dudes ... The Samoan Swat Team & Samoan Savage beat Ranger Ross, Eddie Gilbert, and Tommy Rich ... Tom Zenk pinned The Iron Sheik.

BATON ROUGE, LA By Sean Fluharty



RON GARVIN
vs.
GREG VALENTINE



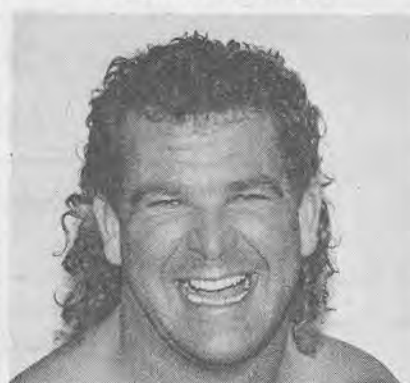
Valentine slapped Garvin to the mat before the bell. Garvin fought back with some slaps and knocked "The Hammer" to the canvas. Valentine rolled out to get some advice from Jimmy Hart, but Garvin grabbed his hair and pulled him back into the ring. He took control and attempted to apply a figure-four leglock, but Valentine kicked out and tried one of his own. Garvin kicked out and caught Valentine in a sleeper, but time had expired.

OTHER BOUTS: Al Perez pinned Barry Horowitz ... The Canadian Earthquake crushed Reno Riggins ... Hercules Hernandez beat Akeem by countout ... The Honky Tonk Man pinned Terry Taylor ... The Rockers pinned The Rougeaus ... The Ultimate Warrior pinned Andre the Giant.

CALGARY, ALBERTA By Arthur Parker



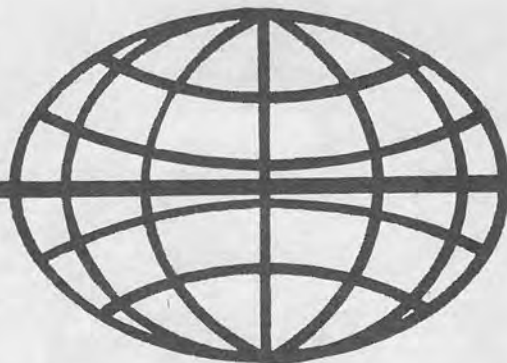
LARRY CAMERON
vs.
D.J. PETERSON



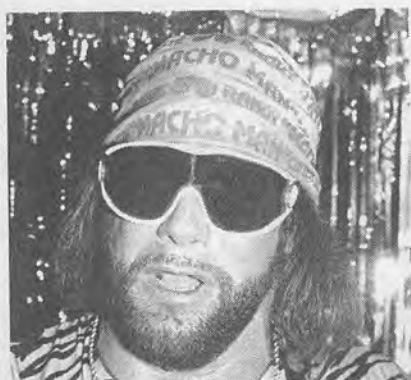
D.J. Peterson, a newcomer to the Stampede area, didn't waste any time earning a title shot at North American champion Larry Cameron. In their non-title match, Peterson caught Cameron in a figure-four leglock. Archangel interfered, causing Cameron's disqualification, but Peterson reapplied the figure-four and refused to relinquish it until Cameron granted him the title match.

OTHER BOUTS: The Blackharts defeated Chris Benoit & Beef Wellington ... The Archangel & Johnny Smith beat Ken Johnson & Kim Schau ... Bruce Hart pinned Skull Mason ... "Strangler" Steve DiSalvo pinned Vinnie Valentino.

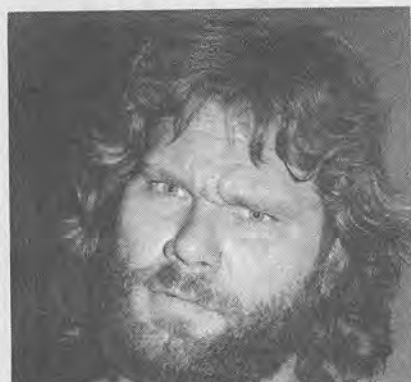
WRESTLING CAPITALS



COLUMBUS, OH By Gary Graham



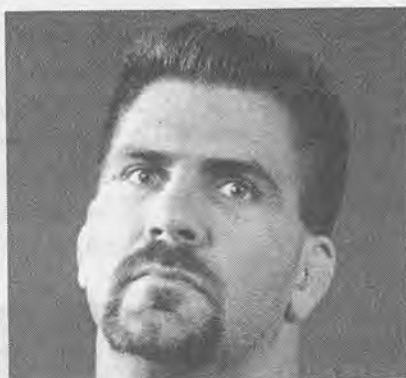
**RANDY SAVAGE
vs.
HACKSAW DUGGAN**



Sensational Sherri didn't hesitate to interfere when necessary. Every time Duggan gained momentum, Martel helped Savage regain the advantage. Sherri's purse eventually proved to be Duggan's downfall. With the referee distracted, Martel threw her purse to Savage, who knocked Duggan to the mat and covered him for the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Demolition defeated Arn Anderson & Haku ... Curt Hennig pinned Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka ... Jake Roberts defeated Ted DiBiase by DQ ... Dino Bravo beat Jim Neidhart ... Paul Roma pinned Mike Sharpe.

HINDMAN, KY By Christopher Adams



**NIKITA KOLOFF
vs.
MANNY FERNANDEZ**



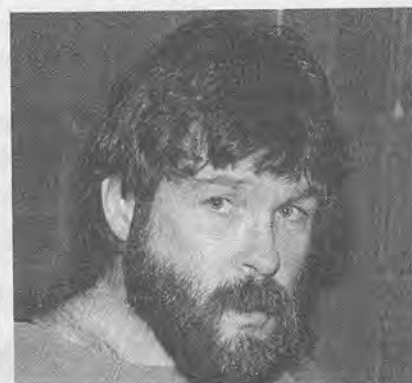
Koloff controlled the early moments using a variety of armbars and armtwists. Manny responded and caught Nikita with a flying elbowsmash. Koloff rolled out of the ring; Fernandez followed, battering the big Russian with chops and elbows. Fernandez continued the assault back in the ring, but Koloff caught him with a Russian sickle. Koloff covered him for the pin. Fernandez put his leg on the bottom rope, and the two men continued to battle. Finally, Fernandez was disqualified for flipping Koloff over the top rope.

OTHER BOUTS: The Rock 'n' Roll Express defeated Ivan Koloff & The Russian Assassin ... Jimmy Valiant beat Paul Jones in a New York street fight ... Mike Newsome pinned Buddy Landell.

MEMPHIS, TN By Virginia Hamblin



**JERRY LAWLER
vs.
DUTCH MANTEL**



These ex-friends battled in a Texas death match. Mantel won the first fall with a DDT, and Lawler used a chain to pin Mantel and win the second fall. In the third fall, both men collided with referee Jerry Calhoun. It was announced that the first man up would win. Suddenly, Soultaker charged into the ring and piledrived Mantel. Lawler tried to wake up Calhoun, but Bill Dundee ran in and hit Lawler with a chain. Mantel rose to his feet and won the match.

OTHER BOUTS: King Cobra beat Lou Fabiano ... Rick & Todd Morton beat Kevin Dillinger & Blackjack ... Master of Pain beat Soultaker ... Chris Champion defeated Mike Davis in a lumberjack match ... Bill Dundee beat Dirty White Boy.



Matt Brock's **PLAIN SPEAKING**

TROY, NY: Ugliest city I've ever seen. Asked one of the locals what they do for fun around here and he told me they go to Albany. That about says it all. For those who might have been confused, Troy is nowhere near New York City. It's about 150 miles north of the big city, and has absolutely nothing in common with it. So if you were waiting for the NWA's invasion of New York, you're still waiting. Troy, New York. The RPI Fieldhouse. Genesee Cream Ale. Ric Flair vs. Terry Funk. Which one doesn't belong? If you guessed Flair vs. Funk, you're right, because this is a world-class battle. On the other hand, Flair vs. Funk has been everywhere else; it got to Troy last, just like everything else seems to. Of course, this was different. This was the final match of one of the greatest one-sided feuds I've ever seen. Once the feud got going, there was never one point where Funk had the upper hand; he just kept coming after Flair. To me, that's what this sport is all about. Flair had the title and was determined to get revenge for what Funk did to him last May. Funk wanted the title back and was determined to drive Flair into an early grave. When they shook hands after Flair won the "I Quit" match here, it was one of the greatest moments in the sport's history. Funk doesn't like Flair and Flair

certainly doesn't like Funk, but they have this strange respect for one another that only they could adequately describe. Funk has always been a great competitor, a tough man who never backed down, and over the past six months he proved what he's made of. Ask Flair if he'd like to wrestle Funk again; I'd bet a return to trip to Troy that he'd say no.



RIC FLAIR VS. TERRY FUNK



PAUL ORNDORFF VS. KERRY VON ERICH

HIGHLAND HEIGHTS, OH: Brock tours the wrestling capitals. Peoria next week? Who knows? What I do know is Paul Orndorff, the self-proclaimed "Mr. Wonderful," is definitely, absolutely, positively *not* dead. That's been one of the biggest rumors in wrestling since Orndorff left the WWF. The truth is he's running a bowling alley down south. Tonight he wrestled. It's been a long time, and Orndorff looked pretty rusty, but here at the Front Row Theatre, he wrestled Kerry Von Erich as part of a Great Lakes Wrestling Federation card. Same

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

old Paul. Von Erich was disqualified for throwing Orndorff over the top rope, and Orndorff responded by beating up referee Lou Kokely. Made no sense at all, but when has Orndorff ever made sense? Anyway, Orndorff's days as a world title contender are over, but he still loves the sport. Talked to him afterward, asked him how he was doing, and he said, "I'm dead." Actually cracked a little smile when he said it, then he asked me if I felt like going out after the matches to talk about old times. "Know any good frozen yogurt places in Highland Heights?" I asked. "Heard about your health kick," Orndorff responded. "Good. It'll make you live longer." I was shocked. Never knew Orndorff to care about whether anybody but himself lived another day.



JERRY LAWLER

MEMPHIS, TN: Heard what was going on, but had to see it to believe it. Now I *know* it's so: Memphis fans are booing Jerry Lawler. For those of you unfamiliar with the

situation down here, that's like the Irish booing Notre Dame. Apparently, these fans are more openminded than I thought. See, it always seemed to everyone down here that Lawler could do no wrong. Next to Elvis Presley, Lawler is considered the greatest thing to ever come out of Memphis, and these people take their legends seriously. But now we're finding out that Lawler *can* do wrong. When he turned his back on Dutch Mantel and let Dutch get triple-teamed, the fans loudly booed Lawler. When Lawler turned his back on Chris Champion, the fans booed him again. And tonight, when Lawler and Dutch went head-to-head, the cheers were mostly for Mantel. Not all, but most, because there are still some die-hards. The fact of the matter is that Memphis fans are finding out the hard way that Texas fans were right all along: Lawler has changed into a rulebreaker. He's only concerned about himself. I don't know what brought about this change, but I have a good idea: It started when the AWA stripped Lawler of the World title. From that point on, he's been bitter and spiteful. Maybe his faith in right was shattered. Maybe Jerry should remember who's been paying his salary all these years. The fans made Lawler great, and Memphis is his home. Why should he want to live among enemies?

DETROIT, MI: Curt Hennig is not the wrestler he used to be, and that's why he won't win the WWF World title from Hulk Hogan. No way. Hennig's scientific skills have gone downhill in the WWF, although he remains undefeated because of the lack of strong wrestlers in the federation. Can Hennig give Hogan a tough match? Absolutely, and he will. Hennig, however, has the weakest perfect record I've ever seen. Yeah, he pinned Jimmy Snuka, but the "Superfly" just doesn't soar the way he used to. Hogan might be the most improved wrestler in the sport while Hennig hasn't taken one solitary step forward since his AWA days. Right now, there isn't a man in the WWF that can beat Hogan. From what I've heard, Zeus might get a solo shot at Hogan, which would be the disgrace to end all WWF disgraces. It's time for promoters, fans, wrestlers, and the press to get it through their heads: Size doesn't win titles. Scientific skill doesn't win titles. It takes a *complete* wrestler, a combination of assets, to be the best. Zeus and Hennig are worlds apart, but they're both one-dimensional. □

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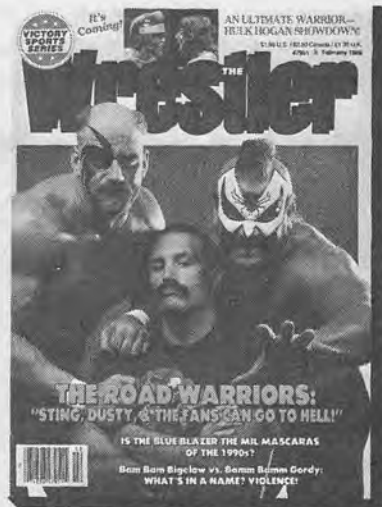
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THE '80S— A ROUSING REVIEW OF A DYNAMIC DECADE

THE '80s WERE the most important decade in the sport's history, 10 years of change, upheaval, and unprecedented popularity. It was the decade when Hulk Hogan stole the hearts of people who had never watched wrestling before, and Ric Flair amazed even those who had been watching it all their lives!

It was the decade that took wrestling into the future!

The 1980s saw unprecedented growth in the sport. Wrestling returned to network television bigger than ever before, and cable-TV brought millions of new viewers to the sport. The last five years of the decade were marked by a pay-per-view TV explosion, and wrestling led the way.

There were WrestleManias I through V, incredible Starrcade extravaganzas, spectacular Great American Bashes, record-setting crowds at historic events, and some of the greatest athletes the sport has ever seen. Flair and Hogan dominated the decade, but there were many, many others.

Andre the Giant thrilled, then shocked, millions of devoted followers. Roddy Piper captivated wrestling fans, then did the same to movie-goers. The Road Warriors

emerged as one of the greatest tag teams of all time.

Wrestlers were often seen on talk shows and in TV programs. Celebrities were often seen in the ring or in wrestlers' corners. One of the most famous feuds ever reached a sensational climax on MTV.

There was tragedy. We lost Adrian Adonis, Bruiser Brody, Peter Maivia, David Von Erich, Mike Von Erich, and many others. Magnum T.A. was in a career-ending automobile accident. We prayed with Nikita Koloff as his wife, Mandy, suffered from Hodgkin's disease, and shed tears when she died.

In this special issue of *Inside Wrestling*, our award-winning team of writers and photographers sum up the past 10 years and send you spiraling into the 1990s with eight pages of full-color photos. We look at some of the events that changed wrestling forever, and the men who made the '80s so very special.

It's a collectors' edition you'll treasure forever, a time capsule that allows you to capture the 1980s. Look, read, and enjoy. Allow us to bring back old memories. Grab these memories and take what you wish into the 1990s.

Enjoy the ride.

A TIMELINE

This special feature provides a unique perspective on history. All world singles title changes throughout the decade, several important events that shaped the world of wrestling, and events that occurred in the world at large are listed on the timeline. Looking back, you'll be amazed and fascinated to see what happened when, and what was going on in the world at the time!

FROM APRIL 1980 ISSUE

NWA

- 1—Harley Race
- 2—Dusty Rhodes
- 3—Jimmy Snuka
- 4—Manhy Fernandez
- 5—Jim Brunzell
- 6—Masked Superstar
- 7—Kevin Von Erich
- 8—Ric Flair
- 9—Mr. Wrestling II
- 10—Steve Keirn

WWF

- 1—Bob Backlund
- 2—Ken Patera
- 3—Bobby Duncum
- 4—Pat Patterson
- 5—Ivan Putski
- 6—Hulk Hogan
- 7—Tito Santana
- 8—Larry Zbyszko
- 9—Tony Atlas
- 10—The Iron Sheik

AWA

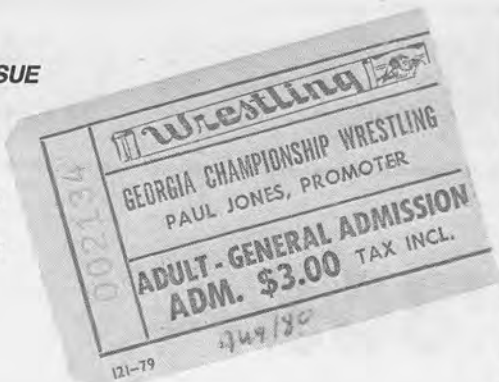
- 1—Nick Bockwinkel
- 2—Crusher
- 3—Verne Gagne
- 4—Dino Bravo
- 5—Greg Gagne
- 6—Billy Robinson
- 7—Jerry Lawler
- 8—Super Destroyer II
- 9—Bill Dundee
- 10—Jesse Ventura

MOST POPULAR

- 1—Andre the Giant
- 2—Dusty Rhodes
- 3—Ivan Putski
- 4—Mr. Wrestling II
- 5—Tommy Rich
- 6—Rick Steamboat
- 7—Jack Brisco
- 8—Wahoo McDaniel
- 9—Dino Bravo
- 10—Chief Jay Strongbow

MOST HATED

- 1—Ken Patera
- 2—Terry Funk
- 3—Greg Valentine
- 4—Jimmy Snuka
- 5—Harley Race
- 6—The Spoiler
- 7—Eddy Mansfield
- 8—Ernie Ladd
- 9—Masked Superstar
- 10—Super Destroyer II



Left: Giant Baba won the NWA title from Harley Race, but lost it six days later. Above: Antonio Inoki came to the U.S. to wrestle for Bob Backlund's WWF belt. Below: Mr. Wrestling II met President Jimmy Carter.



Hulk Hogan, managed by Fred Blassie, came to the WWF and demanded a shot at World champion **Bob Backlund**. Hogan steamrolled over his WWF competition, and wrestlers petitioned the federation to do something about Hogan's loaded elbowpad. . . **Bruno Sammartino** was disqualified for choking former protege **Larry Zbyszko** before a record crowd of 26,102 at Madison Square Garden. Later, Bruno admitted, "I snapped." In August, Sammartino beat Zbyszko before 40,671 fans at Shea Stadium. On the same card, **Andre the Giant** defeated **Hulk Hogan**. . . **Verne Gagne** won his ninth AWA World title from **Nick Bockwinkel**. . . **David Von Erich** became a rulebreaker and was managed by **J.J. Dillon**. . . **Giant Baba** and **Jumbo Tsuruta** contended for **Harley Race's** NWA World title; Baba became a three-time (for a total of three weeks!) NWA champ, then lost the title back to Race. . . For the first time since the formation of the WWF, the NWA World title was on the line in Madison Square Garden as champ **Harley Race** defeated **Dusty Rhodes**. . . **Mr. Wrestling II** met with President **Jimmy Carter**. . . **Harley Race** retained his NWA belt against **Dusty Rhodes** on the August 3 "Last Tangle In Tampa" card; **Fritz Von Erich** was special referee for this best-of-three-falls bout. . . WWF champ **Bob Backlund** wrestled Japanese legend **Antonio Inoki** to a draw in a rare U.S. battle. . . A feud erupted between AWA managers **Bobby Heenan** and **Lord Al Hays** when Hays turned good and actively prevented Heenan from interfering on behalf of his wrestlers.



September 4: Shohei Baba defeats Harley Race for NWA title

August 9: Larry Zbyszko vs. Bruno Sammartino in Shea Stadium

July 18: Verne Gagne defeats Nick Bockwinkel for AWA title

September 10: Harley Race defeats Shohei Baba for NWA title

April 12: U.S. announces boycott of Moscow summer Olympics

November 4: Ronald Reagan elected President

April 24: Iranian hostage rescue fails; eight Americans killed

December 8: John Lennon shot

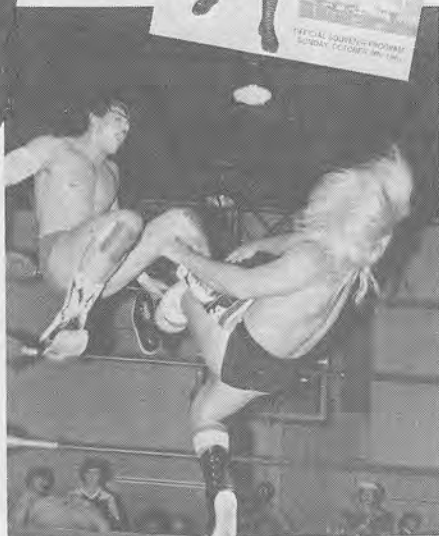
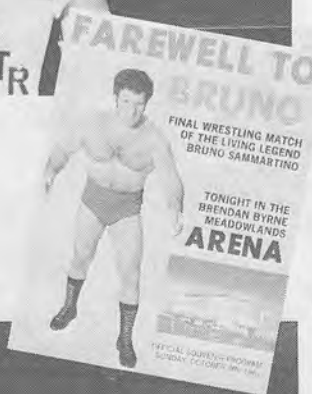
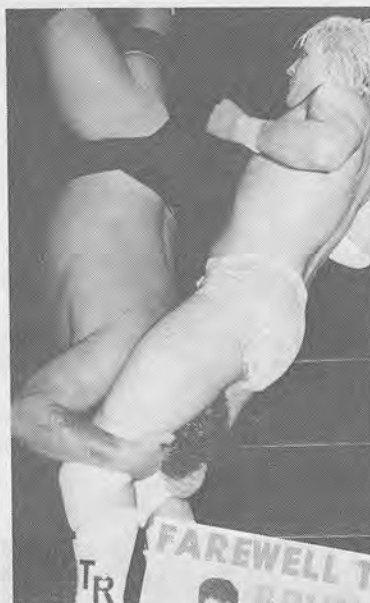
May 18: Mt. St. Helens erupts

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

Verne Gagne, a nine-time AWA World champion, announced his retirement 10 months after beating Nick Bockwinkel for the title. Following Gagne's retirement, Bockwinkel was awarded the belt as number-one contender . . . Hulk Hogan's rise to superstardom began in earnest when he took time off from wrestling for the filming of *Rocky III* . . . Bruno Sammartino announced his retirement from wrestling; the "Living Legend" would later return to the sport . . . Gary Hart went bald! Hart had his head shaved after protegee Gino Hernandez lost a match to Kevin Von Erich . . . The Ric Flair-Roddy Piper feud reached a bloody climax as Piper became one of the most hated men in wrestling . . . The NWA World title changed hands three times over a period of two months: First, Tommy Rich became one of the youngest champs ever when he beat Harley Race on April 27. On May 1, Race regained the title from Rich. On June 21, Dusty Rhodes won his second World title from Race . . . Ric Flair later beat Rhodes to begin his first NWA World title reign . . . Barry Windham began wrestling as Blackjack Mulligan Jr. . . . Michael Hayes and former NFL star Otis Sistrunk won the Georgia National tag belts from Terry Gordy and Jimmy Snuka . . . Ten wrestlers had to keep Andre the Giant from destroying archrival Killer Khan during a match in Toronto . . . Masked Superstar was banned from U.S. arenas for attacking an official . . . Adrian Adonis and Jesse Ventura came to the WWF.

Right: With his victory over Harley Race, Tommy Rich became one of the youngest NWA champs ever. Below: Barry Windham wrestled as Blackjack Mulligan Jr.

Adrian Adonis and Jesse Ventura—The East-West Connection—came to the WWF.



May 19: Nick Bockwinkel awarded AWA title when Verne Gagne retires

May 1: Harley Race defeats Tommy Rich for NWA title

April 27: Tommy Rich defeats Harley Race for NWA title

June 21: Dusty Rhodes defeats Harley Race for NWA title

September 17: Ric Flair defeats Dusty Rhodes for NWA title

FROM OCTOBER 1981 ISSUE

NWA

- 1—Dusty Rhodes
- 2—Harley Race
- 3—Roddy Piper
- 4—Ken Patera
- 5—Dory Funk Jr.
- 6—Ivan Koloff
- 7—Tommy Rich
- 8—Ted DiBiase
- 9—Ric Flair
- 10—Mr. Wrestling II

WWF

- 1—Bob Backlund
- 2—George Steele
- 3—Don Muraco
- 4—Angelo Mosca
- 5—Greg Valentine
- 6—Killer Khan
- 7—Mil Mascaras
- 8—Pedro Morales
- 9—Pat Patterson
- 10—Sgt. Slaughter

AWA

- 1—Nick Bockwinkel
- 2—Crusher
- 3—Dino Bravo
- 4—Tito Santana
- 5—Greg Gagne
- 6—Baron Von Raschke
- 7—John Studd
- 8—Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie
- 9—Jim Brunzell
- 10—Crusher Blackwell

MOST POPULAR

- 1—Dusty Rhodes
- 2—Andre the Giant
- 3—Mil Mascaras
- 4—Bruno Sammartino
- 5—Bob Backlund
- 6—Tommy Rich
- 7—Ted DiBiase
- 8—Ric Flair
- 9—Ivan Putski
- 10—Leroy Brown

MOST HATED

- 1—Don Muraco
- 2—Crusher Blackwell
- 3—Super Destroyer
- 4—Sgt. Slaughter
- 5—Harley Race
- 6—Angelo Mosca
- 7—Abdullah the Butcher
- 8—Ken Patera
- 9—Kevin Sullivan
- 10—Ernie Ladd

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

January 20: 52 U.S. hostages released by Iran

March 30: President Reagan and press secretary James Brady shot

July 29: Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer married

September 21: First woman Supreme Court justice, Sandra Day O'Connor, confirmed

April 12: First space shuttle mission ever

FROM JUNE 1982 ISSUE

NWA

- 1—Ric Flair
- 2—Sgt. Slaughter
- 3—Tommy Rich
- 4—Mr. Wrestling II
- 5—Roddy Piper
- 6—Bruiser
- 7—Dory Funk Jr.
- 8—Dusty Rhodes
- 9—Harley Race
- 10—David Von Erich

WWF

- 1—Bob Backlund
- 2—Blackjack Mulligan
- 3—Jimmy Snuka
- 4—Jesse Ventura
- 5—Pedro Morales
- 6—Greg Valentine
- 7—Adrian Adonis
- 8—Bob Orton Jr.
- 9—Tony Atlas
- 10—Ivan Putski

AWA

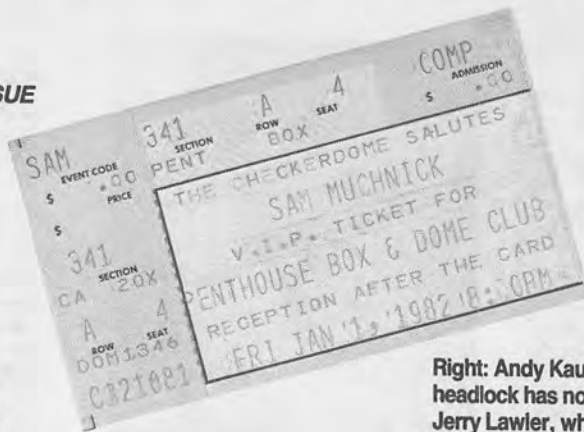
- 1—Nick Bockwinkel
- 2—Hulk Hogan
- 3—Tito Santana
- 4—Ken Patera
- 5—Baron Von Raschke
- 6—Crusher Blackwell
- 7—Bobby Duncum
- 8—Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie
- 9—Greg Gagne
- 10—Jim Brunzell

MOST POPULAR

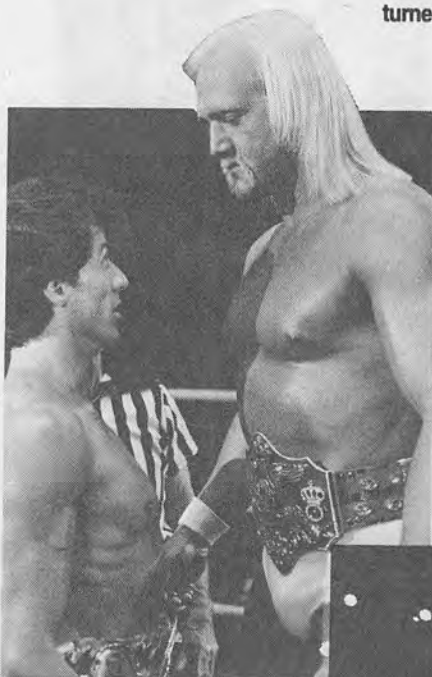
- 1—Andre the Giant
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- 4—Bob Backlund
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- 6—Hulk Hogan
- 7—Mil Mascaras
- 8—Mr. Wrestling II
- 9—Junkyard Dog
- 10—Pedro Morales

MOST HATED

- 1—Roddy Piper
- 2—Jimmy Snuka
- 3—Sgt. Slaughter
- 4—Ric Flair
- 5—Ken Patera
- 6—Capt. Lou Albano
- 7—Ivan Koloff
- 8—David Von Erich
- 9—Harley Race
- 10—Gary Hart



Right: Andy Kaufman's headlock has no effect on Jerry Lawler, who humiliated the comedian-turned-wrestler.



Above: Hulk Hogan starred as Thunderlips in *Rocky III*.

WWF World champion Bob Backlund wrestled NWA World champion Ric Flair in a title vs. title match at The Omni in Atlanta. After 20 minutes of memorable action, both men were counted out. A rematch was never signed, and this was the last NWA title vs. WWF title match ever held ... European champion Otto Wanz shocked North American fans by winning the AWA World title from Nick Bockwinkel. Wanz later lost the title to Bockwinkel and returned to his native Austria ... Andre the Giant was featured in the longest article ever on an individual sports star in *Sports Illustrated* and later starred in the hit TV series *The Fall Guy* ... *Rocky III* was a box-office smash and Hulk Hogan became an international superstar for his portrayal of Thunderlips. Hogan also appeared on *The Tonight Show* with Johnny Carson ... Jerry Lawler and wrestler Andy Kaufman started their famous feud. Lawler injured Kaufman's neck, and the men had another shouting match on *Late Night with David Letterman*. The feud started when Kaufman was making fun of wrestling ... A contractual loophole, discovered by Buddy Rogers, allowed Jimmy Snuka to split with manager Capt. Lou Albano ... Dusty Rhodes hired Kevin Sullivan as his nutritionist; the project was a dismal failure ... Bill Dundee wrestled Koko Ware in the first-ever scaffold match; Dundee won ... Hulk Hogan began wrestling other rulebreakers for the first time.



Right: Otto Wanz won the AWA World title from Nick Bockwinkel.

August 29: Otto Wanz defeats Nick Bockwinkel for AWA title

July 4: WWF champion Bob Backlund vs. NWA champion Ric Flair

June 28: Bob Backlund's cage match with Jimmy Snuka in Madison Square Garden

October 9: Nick Bockwinkel defeats Otto Wanz for AWA title

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

April 2: Falklands war begins

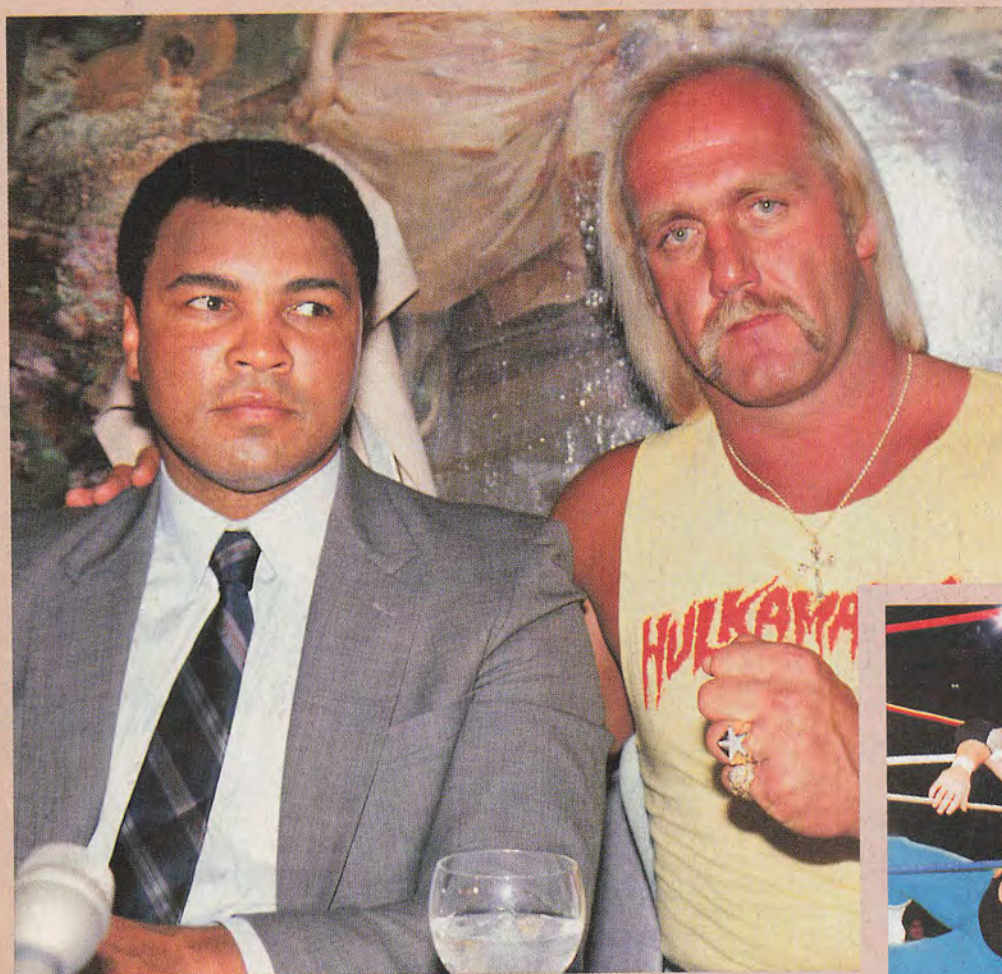
June 15: Falklands war ends

June 30: ERA amendment fails ratification

November 10: Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev dies at 75

December 2: First artificial heart implant

C ELEBRITIES OF THE '80s



Lou Albano and Cyndi Lauper (above) helped make the rock 'n' wrestling connection in the WWF in 1984 and '85.



Mr. T slugs Roddy Piper during their boxing match at WrestleMania II in 1986 (below).

Jerry Lawler never took Andy Kaufman seriously as a wrestler (left). Muhammad Ali joins Hulk Hogan at the first WrestleMania in 1985 (above left). Jim Neidhart is down but William "Refrigerator" Perry is on his feet at the WrestleMania II football players/wrestlers' battle royal (above right).

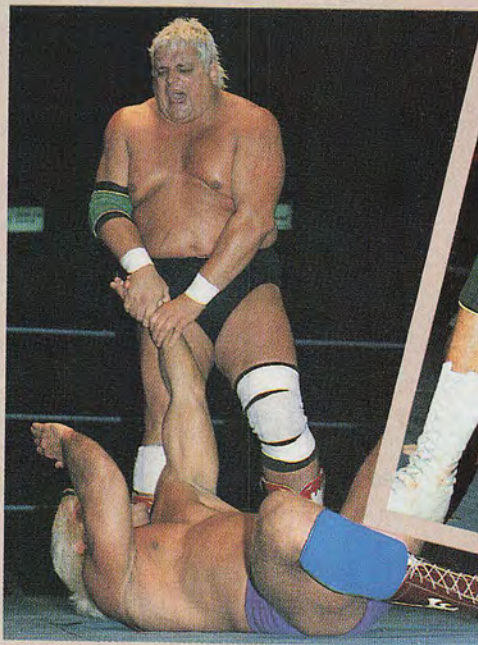


Antonio Inoki put on the gloves to fight former heavyweight boxing champion Leon Spinks in Japan (above).

C HAMPIONS OF THE '80s



Nick Bockwinkel armlocks Otto Wanz (above). Wanz won the AWA title from Bockwinkel in 1982, but Bockwinkel regained it six weeks later.



Dusty Rhodes grabs Ric Flair by the wrist (above). Rhodes won his second NWA World title from Harley Race in 1981, and went on to beat Flair for his third in 1986.

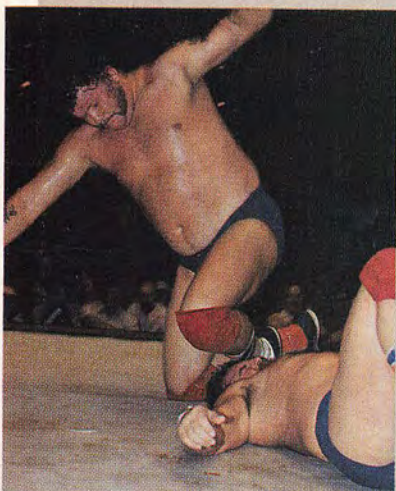


Curt Hennig (above, with a Boston crab on Jerry Blackwell) was AWA World champion from May 1987 to May 1988.

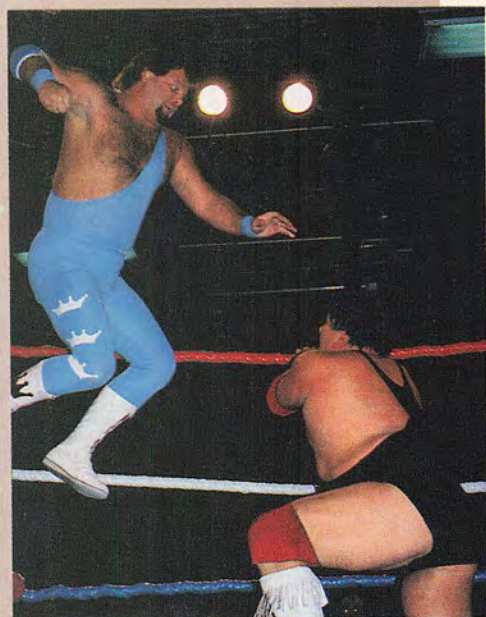
Harley Race executes a kneedrop on Mike Graham (below). Race enjoyed four of his seven NWA title reigns in the '80s.



Still clad in his ring robe, Randy Savage goes after Ted DiBiase (left). Savage held the WWF belt from March 1988 until April 1989.



Ric Flair chinlocks Magnum T.A. (right). All six of Flair's NWA World title reigns came in the 1980s.



Hulk Hogan boots Big Bossman off the ropes (above); in two WWF title reigns over six years, Hogan faced opponents of all sizes and styles. Bob Backlund locks up Don Muraco in a match pitting the WWF champ against the Intercontinental champ in 1981 (below).



Jerry Lawler sprints down on Wahoo McDaniel (top); in 1988, Lawler defended the AWA title in many different areas. Larry Zbyszko, who followed Lawler as AWA champ, armlocks Steve Keim (above).

F FEUDS OF THE '80s



The feud between Buzz Sawyer and Tommy Rich (above) was one of the bloodiest of the decade.

Bruno Sammartino chokes Larry Zbyszko (below). One of 1980's most shocking moments was when Zbyszko turned against Sammartino, his mentor.



Magnum T.A. armlocks Nikita Koloff (above). Throughout the summer of 1986, T.A. and Koloff battled for the U.S. title.



Greg Valentine elbowsmashes Roddy Piper during their memorable dog-collar chain match at Starrcade '83 (above).



The Iron Sheik catches Sgt. Slaughter in an abdominal stretch (above). Slaughter's patriotism captured America's imagination in '84.

Buddy Roberts bloodyes Kevin Von Erich (left). The Freebird-Von Erich feud excited Texas crowds like nothing before—or since.



Ric Flair takes a swing at Harley Race (right); Flair and Race battled for the NWA title often in the early 1980s. Kevin Sullivan and Dusty Rhodes (far right) engaged in a lengthy and bizarre feud in Florida.



Hulk Hogan clotheslines Paul Omdorff against the ropes (right). In 1986, Omdorff turned against Hogan to begin this feud.



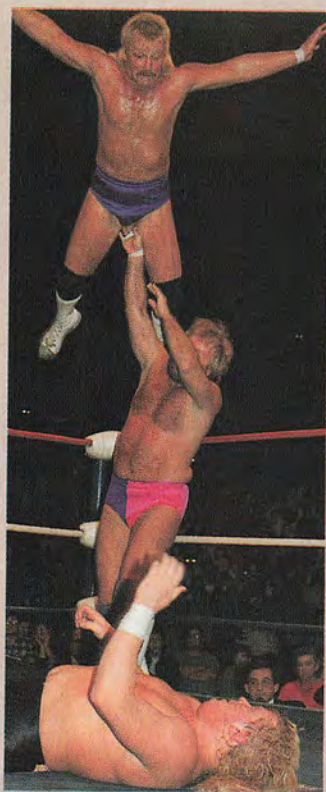
Rick Steamboat dropkicks Ric Flair (above). The Flair-Steamboat encounters from '83 to '89 will be remembered as some of the best in the history of the sport.



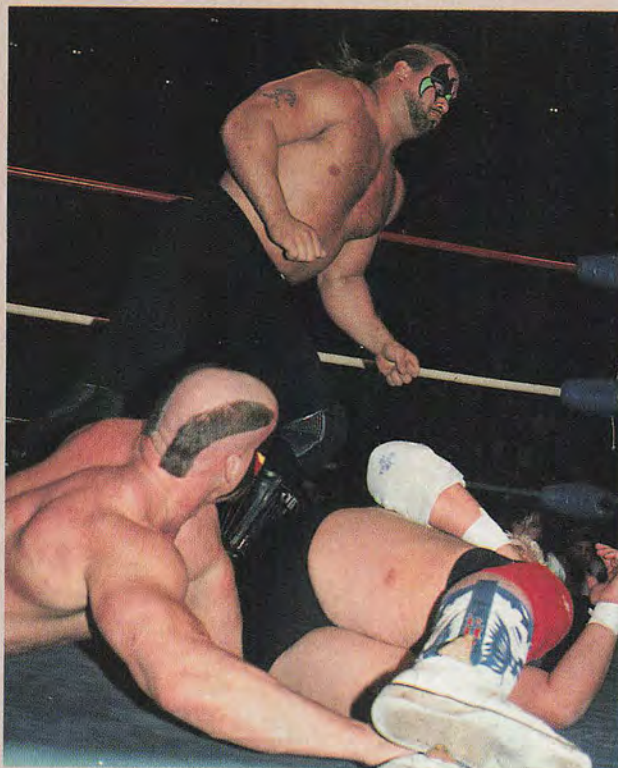
Jimmy Snuka is about to clobber Bob Backlund with Backlund's WWF championship belt (above). The Fijian nearly took Backlund's title in 1982.



TAG TEAMS OF THE '80s

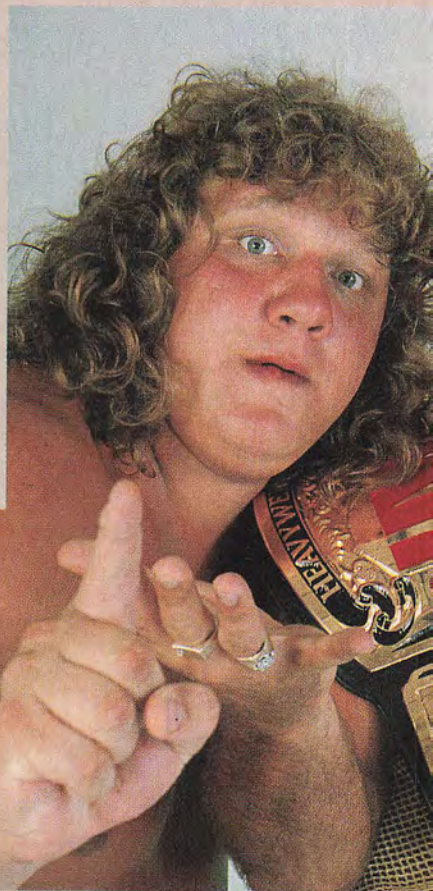


Dennis Condrey heaves Randy Rose onto Bobby Eaton (above). The war between the two Mid-night Express teams lit up the NWA in 1988.

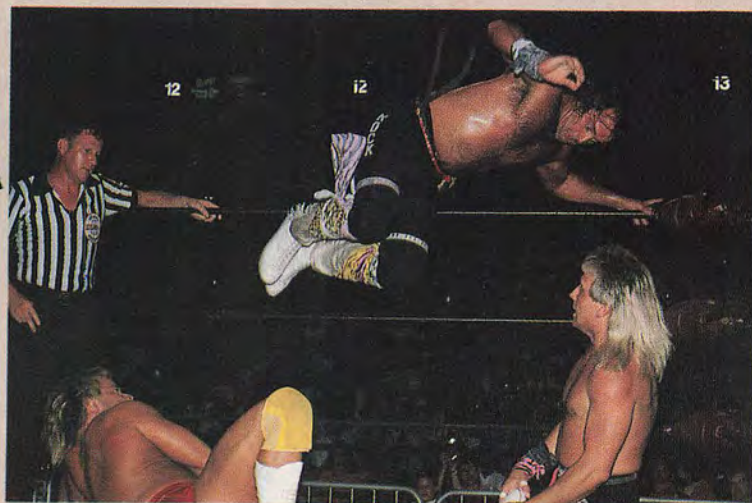


Bursting on the scene in 1983, The Road Warriors (left) were the most consistently dominant team of the 1980s.

The Fantastics double-dropkick Buddy Roberts (right). Tommy Rogers and Bobby Fulton were very successful in World Class.



Adrian Adonis and Jesse Ventura (left) won the AWA tag team title in 1980; they later moved to the WWF. The Rock 'n' Roll Express double-team Stan Lane (below); the Rock 'n' Rolls-Mid-nights feud was a highlight of 1987.





Whether in tag team or six-man competition, The Fabulous Freebirds were always a dangerous trio to contend with.



Dynamite Kid batters Bret Hart (above). The British Bulldogs won the WWF tag team title in 1986, but lost the belts to Hart and Jim Neidhart in 1987.



Jay Youngblood and Rick Steamboat rejoice after winning the NWA tag title—their third of five—in March 1983.



Jim Brunzell and Greg Gagne, The High Flyers (left), enjoyed the longest AWA tag title reign of the '80s.



Tully Blanchard gives Arn Anderson leverage for an abdominal stretch on Bobby Fulton (above). Blanchard and Anderson won world tag titles in both the NWA and WWF.

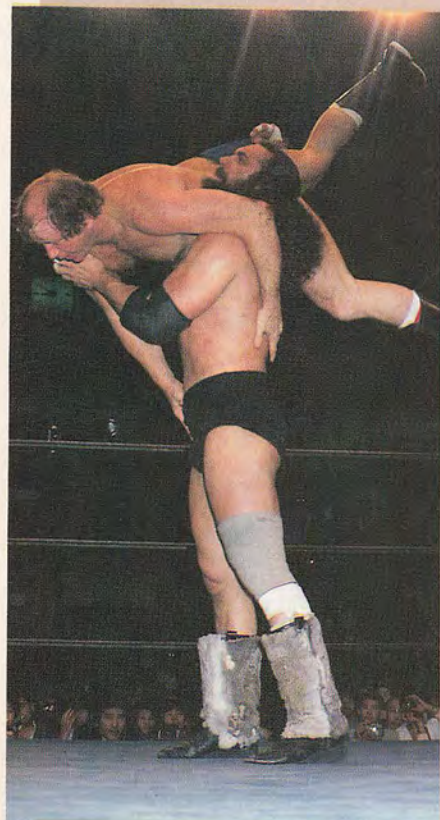


Kevin, David, and Kerry Von Erich came into prominence in this decade as the most popular wrestling brothers ever.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



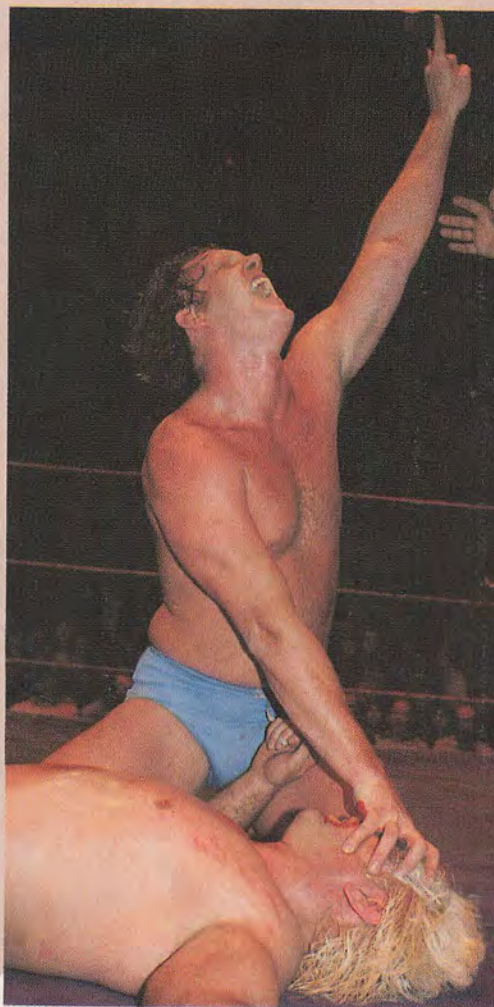
Gino Hernandez (above) was one of Texas' most exciting stars when he died in 1986. Bruiser Brody (below, slamming Dory Funk) was internationally famous; he was tough in the ring, but kindhearted outside of it.



Adrian Adonis executes a backbreaker on Bob Backlund (below). Adonis was a co-holder of both the AWA and WWF World tag team titles.



David Von Erich slaps the famous Von Erich claw on Ric Flair (below). Before his tragic death in 1984, David seemed a sure bet to win the NWA title.



The Grand Wizard (above) ruled the WWF for years; he was known for his strange methods and unusual attire. Mike Von Erich (below) constantly struggled to live up to his older brothers' accomplishments.



It was a year of story feuds: **Dusty Rhodes** warred with **Kevin Sullivan** in Florida, **Jimmy Snuka** and **Magnificent Muraco** battled throughout the WWF, **Greg Valentine** and **Roddy Piper** battled ferociously in the NWA (Piper lost hearing in his left ear as a result of a vicious Valentine attack), and the **Tommy Rich-Buzz Sawyer** vendetta reached a bloody apex ... **Buzz Sawyer** and **Brett Sawyer** scored the upset of the year, beating **The Road Warriors** for the National tag team title ... **Jim Garvin** and **Sunshine** served as **David Von Erich's** ranch hands for a day ... The **Iron Sheik** ended an almost six-year WWF title reign by **Bob Backlund** ... *Teaneck Tanzi: The Venus Flytrap* was a wrestling-oriented show on Broadway starring **Deborah Harry** and **Andy Kaufman**; it closed after two performances ... **Hulk Hogan** left the AWA for a self-imposed exile in Japan ... **Jim Cornette** became a full-time manager in the Memphis area ... **Harley Race** downed **Ric Flair** on June 10 to capture an unprecedented seventh NWA World title ... **Larry Zbyszko** paid **Killer Brooks** \$25,000 for the National heavyweight title ... **The Road Warriors** attacked their manager, **Paul Ellering**, on national television; they reconciled shortly thereafter ... Our sister publication, *The Wrestler*, offered fans free membership cards to **Roddy Piper's** "Piper's Palace" or **Sir Oliver Humperdink's** "House of Humperdink"; the fans overwhelmingly chose "Piper's Palace" ... *Inside Wrestling* and its sister magazines withdrew recognition of the WWF championship as a world title ... Wrestling mourned the loss of legendary manager **The Grand Wizard**, who dies October 12 at age 54.



Above: **Jim Garvin** and **Sunshine** were forced to serve as **David Von Erich's** ranch hands for a day.



Above: **Harley Race** couldn't thwart **Ric Flair's** NWA title aspirations.



Left: The **Iron Sheik** ended **Bob Backlund's** long WWF title reign.

FROM JULY 1983 ISSUE

NWA

- 1—**Ric Flair**
- 2—**Greg Valentine**
- 3—**Kerry Von Erich**
- 4—**Larry Zbyszko**
- 5—**Dory Funk Jr.**
- 6—**Scott McGhee**
- 7—**Bob Armstrong**
- 8—**Frank Dusek**
- 9—**Dewey Robertson**
- 10—**Tommy Rich**

WWF

- 1—**Bob Backlund**
- 2—**Ivan Koloff**
- 3—**Don Muraco**
- 4—**Jimmy Snuka**
- 5—**Mike Sharpe**
- 6—**John Studd**
- 7—**Superstar Graham**
- 8—**Rocky Johnson**
- 9—**Pedro Morales**
- 10—**Ray Stevens**

AWA

- 1—**Nick Bockwinkel**
- 2—**Rick Martel**
- 3—**Jerry Lawler**
- 4—**Hulk Hogan**
- 5—**Wahoo McDaniel**
- 6—**Ken Patera**
- 7—**Jesse Ventura**
- 8—**Mad Dog Vachon**
- 9—**Jim Brunzell**
- 10—**Crusher Blackwell**

MOST POPULAR

- 1—**Andre the Giant**
- 2—**Dusty Rhodes**
- 3—**Roddy Piper**
- 4—**Hulk Hogan**
- 5—**Rick Martel**
- 6—**Jimmy Snuka**
- 7—**Junkyard Dog**
- 8—**Tommy Rich**
- 9—**Rick Steamboat**
- 10—**Kevin Von Erich**

MOST HATED

- 1—**Kevin Sullivan**
- 2—**Greg Valentine**
- 3—**Ric Flair**
- 4—**Ted DiBise**
- 5—**Karnala**
- 6—**Dick Slater**
- 7—**Buzz Sawyer**
- 8—**Great Kabuki**
- 9—**Bob Armstrong**
- 10—**Tully Blanchard**

December 26: **Iron Sheik** defeats **Bob Backlund** for WWF title

November 24: **Ric Flair** defeats **Harley Race** for NWA title

October 23: **Tommy Rich-Buzz Sawyer** "Last Battle of Atlanta"

June 10: **Harley Race** defeats **Ric Flair** for NWA title

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

March 2: Final episode of *M*A*S*H*

April 4: Space shuttle **Challenger** completes maiden voyage

May 6: Hitler diaries declared a hoax

June 18: Shuttle astronaut **Sally Ride** is first U.S. woman in space

August 30: Shuttle astronaut **Gilbert S. Bluford Jr.** is first black in space

FROM OCTOBER 1984 ISSUE

NWA

- 1—Ric Flair
- 2—Wahoo McDaniel
- 3—Brad Armstrong
- 4—Harley Race
- 5—Angelo Mosca
- 6—Kerry Von Erich
- 7—Angelo Mosca Jr.
- 8—Superstar Graham
- 9—Carlos Colon
- 10—Gino Hernandez

WWF

- 1—Hulk Hogan
- 2—Tito Santana
- 3—Greg Valentine
- 4—Bob Backlund
- 5—Sgt. Slaughter
- 6—Bob Orton Jr.
- 7—David Shultz
- 8—Jimmy Shuka
- 9—Paul Orndorff
- 10—The Iron Sheik

AWA

- 1—Rick Martel
- 2—Nick Bockwinkel
- 3—Blackjack Lanza
- 4—Abdullah the Butcher
- 5—Bruiser Brody
- 6—Jumbo Tsuruta
- 7—Jerry Lawler
- 8—Larry Zbyszko
- 9—Greg Gagne
- 10—Billy Robinson

MOST POPULAR

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- 2—Dusty Rhodes
- 3—Jimmy Valiant
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- 5—Rick Martel
- 6—Kerry Von Erich
- 7—Sgt. Slaughter
- 8—Billy Jack Haynes
- 9—Rick Steamboat
- 10—Junkyard Dog

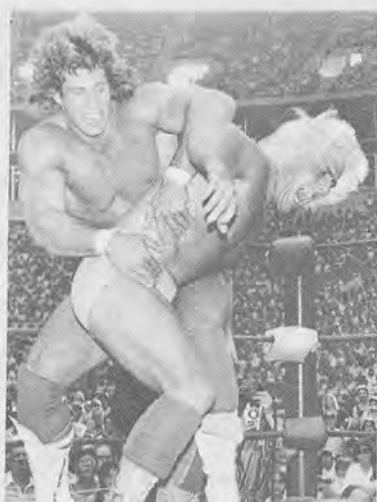
MOST HATED

- 1—Tully Blanchard
- 2—Ted DiBiase
- 3—Kevin Sullivan
- 4—Abdullah the Butcher
- 5—Ivan Koloff
- 6—Nikolai Volkoff
- 7—The Iron Sheik
- 8—Angelo Mosca
- 9—Jim Garvin
- 10—Butch Reed



Left: David Von Erich died in Japan.

Right: Kerry Von Erich captured the NWA World title from Ric Flair.



"Hulkamania" was officially born as Hulk Hogan thrashed The Iron Sheik in 5:40 at Madison Square Garden ... Sgt. Slaughter attained unforeseen popularity in his feud with The Iron Sheik ... Dusty Rhodes embarked on his "TCB Tour '84"—TCB standing for "Takin' Care of Business" ... Two-time former NWA champion and pro football Hall of Famer Bronko Nagurski tossed the coin at the start of Super Bowl XVIII ... Hulk Hogan appeared as guest VJ on MTV on September 25 ... Capt. Lou Albano was assaulted by Roddy Piper during a ceremony honoring Cyndi Lauper at Madison Square Garden; the attack changed Albano's wrestling philosophy ... Wrestling USA tried to bring together top stars from the AWA, NWA, Japan, and independent federations ... The WWF took over the NWA's time on SuperStation WTBS; an outpouring of fan complaints helped bring the NWA back to the station ... Ric Flair battled Rick Steamboat in the main event of "A Night Of Champions" in New Jersey's Meadowlands; it was the first NWA card in the New York area in 20 years ... Wrestling mourned the deaths of David Von Erich, Vince McMahon Sr., and Frank Tunney ... 43,518 fans attended the David Von Erich Memorial Parade of Champions in Irving, Texas; Kerry Von Erich downed Ric Flair for the NWA World title in the main event ... Starrcade '84 boasted the largest cash purse in wrestling history: \$1-million to the winner of the Ric Flair-Dusty Rhodes main event; Flair won the bout ... Ivan and Nikita Koloff were an awesome Russian presence in the NWA; they were joined by American Don Kernodle ... Kevin Sullivan dominated the Florida scene ... Lanny Poffo began wearing a full suit of armor into the ring.

Below: Lanny Poffo wore a suit of armor to the ring.



Left: Hulk Hogan won the WWF belt from The Iron Sheik.

February 22: Jumbo Tsuruta defeats Nick Bockwinkel for AWA title

May 24: Ric Flair defeats Kerry Von Erich for NWA title

February 10: David Von Erich found dead in Japan

May 13: Rick Martel defeats Jumbo Tsuruta for AWA title

January 23: Hulk Hogan defeats Iron Sheik for WWF title

May 6: Kerry Von Erich defeats Ric Flair for NWA title

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January 6: Australian woman mother of first test tube quadruplets

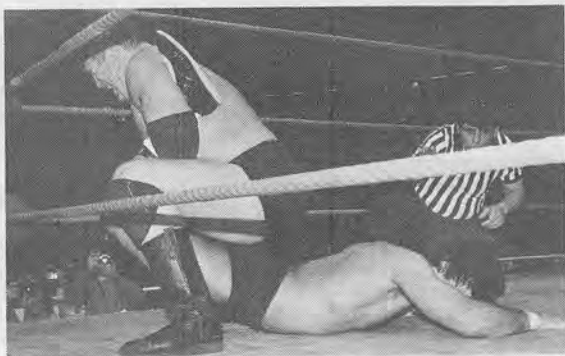
May 2: Soviet Union withdraws from Olympic games in L.A.

October 31: India Prime Minister Indira Gandhi assassinated

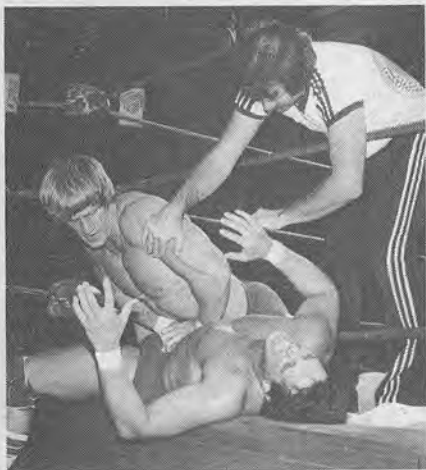
January 17: Supreme Court upholds use of videorecorders in homes

November 7: Ronald Reagan reelected in landslide

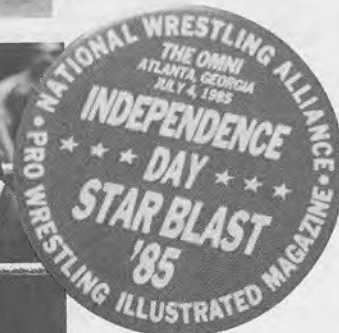
Right: Stan Hansen's "Brazos Valley backbreaker" won him the AWA World title from Rick Martel.



Left: Mr. T is exhausted after his and Hulk Hogan's victory at WrestleMania I.



Above: Kevin Von Erich vs. Chris Adams was the big feud in the World Class area.



Hulk Hogan seemed to be everywhere, appearing on *The Tonight Show* with Joan Rivers, *The Love Boat*, *Search For Tomorrow*, and the Grammy awards program ... Steve Williams' eye was cut wide open by a Brad Armstrong elbow; he received 108 stitches and wrestled again that same day! ... Chris Adams and Kevin Von Erich feuded throughout the World Class area for almost the entire year ... Stan Hansen employed a Boston crab submission hold to take Rick Martel's AWA title ... Ken Patera and Mr. Saito were found guilty of assault charges stemming from a 1984 fight with police in Wisconsin; they both were sentenced to two years in prison and six years probation ... Hulk Hogan injured talk-show host Richard Belzer on the Lifetime cable network program *Hot Properties* when he demonstrated a front-facelock on Belzer then dropped him to the floor; verdict in a lawsuit is still pending ... After Mike Von Erich underwent surgery to correct a shoulder injured at the hands of Gino Hernandez, he contracted toxic shock syndrome ... The wrestling world lost Wild Bull Curry, Eddie Graham, Rick McGraw, Jay Youngblood, and *Inside Wrestling* columnist Dan Shocket ... Ringside seats for the first WrestleMania at New York's Madison Square Garden cost \$100 ... Magnum T.A. won the U.S. title from Tully Blanchard in an "I Quit" cage match ... The Freedom Fighters—Justice (Ultimate Warrior) and Flash (Sting) made their debut in the Mid-Southern area ... Aged legends Fred Blassie and Lou Albano faced off in a steel cage match in Nassau Coliseum on Long Island ... David Shultz hit ABC-TV reporter John Stossel during a 20/20 report on wrestling ... *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* and its sister magazines upgraded the WWF belt to world title status.

FROM AUGUST 1985 ISSUE NWA

- 1—Ric Flair
- 2—Magnum T.A.
- 3—Jerry Blackwell
- 4—Dusty Rhodes
- 5—Ronnie Garvin
- 6—Chris Adams
- 7—Rick Rude
- 8—Buzz Tyler
- 9—Brian Blair
- 10—Kerry Von Erich

WWF

- 1—Hulk Hogan
- 2—Greg Valentine
- 3—Roddy Piper
- 4—Tito Santana
- 5—Don Muraco
- 6—Junkyard Dog
- 7—Ken Patera
- 8—Paul Orndorff
- 9—John Studd
- 10—Jimmy Snuka

AWA

- 1—Rick Martel
- 2—Larry Zbyszko
- 3—Jim Garvin
- 4—Bob Backlund
- 5—Sgt. Slaughter
- 6—King Tonga
- 7—Nick Bockwinkel
- 8—The Tonga Kid
- 9—Jerry Blackwell
- 10—Butch Reed

MOST POPULAR

- 1—Hulk Hogan
- 2—Kerry Von Erich
- 3—Magnum T.A.
- 4—Dusty Rhodes
- 5—Rick Martel
- 6—Junkyard Dog
- 7—Sgt. Slaughter
- 8—Kevin Von Erich
- 9—Terry Taylor
- 10—Hacksaw Duggan

MOST HATED

- 1—Chris Adams
- 2—Roddy Piper
- 3—Tully Blanchard
- 4—Jim Garvin
- 5—Gino Hernandez
- 6—Greg Valentine
- 7—Ted DiBiase
- 8—Rick Rude
- 9—Butch Reed
- 10—Kevin Sullivan

March 31: WrestleMania I

February 18: Roddy Piper vs. Hulk Hogan broadcast live on MTV

May 11: First WWF Saturday Night's Main Event program

March 11: USSR leader Chernenko dies, replaced by Mikhail Gorbachev

July 13: "Live Aid" raises \$70-million to help starving in Africa

September 19: Thousands die in Mexico earthquake

October 7: Hijackers seize Achille Lauro cruise ship

November 19: First U.S.-USSR summit in six years

December 21: Stan Hansen defeats Rick Martel for AWA title

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FROM FEBRUARY 1986 ISSUE

NWA

- 1—Ric Flair
- 2—Tully Blanchard
- 3—Terry Taylor
- 4—Kerry Von Erich
- 5—Magnum T.A.
- 6—Nikita Koloff
- 7—Wahoo McDaniel
- 8—Harley Race
- 9—Brian Adias
- 10—Lance Von Erich

WWF

- 1—Hulk Hogan
- 2—Tito Santana
- 3—Don Muraco
- 4—Roddy Piper
- 5—Rick Steamboat
- 6—Handy Savage
- 7—Paul Orndorff
- 8—Terry Funk
- 9—Junkyard Dog
- 10—Andre the Giant

AWA

- 1—Rick Martel
- 2—Sgt. Slaughter
- 3—Larry Zbyszko
- 4—Stan Hansen
- 5—Jim Garvin
- 6—Nick Bockwinkel
- 7—Michael Hayes
- 8—Boris Zulkov
- 9—Greg Gagne
- 10—Scott Hall

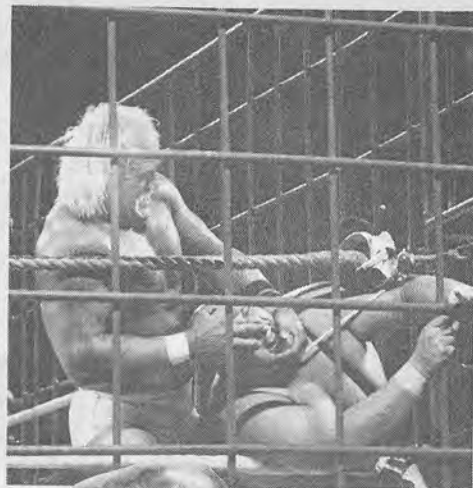
MOST POPULAR

- 1—Hulk Hogan
- 2—Magnum T.A.
- 3—Dusty Rhodes
- 4—Terry Taylor
- 5—Rick Martel
- 6—Rick Steamboat
- 7—Kevin Von Erich
- 8—Hackshaw Duggan
- 9—Tito Santana
- 10—Sgt. Slaughter

MOST HATED

- 1—Ric Flair
- 2—Roddy Piper
- 3—Don Muraco
- 4—Ted DiBiase
- 5—Chris Adams
- 6—Tully Blanchard
- 7—Ole Anderson
- 8—Nikita Koloff
- 9—Rick Rude
- 10—Randy Savage

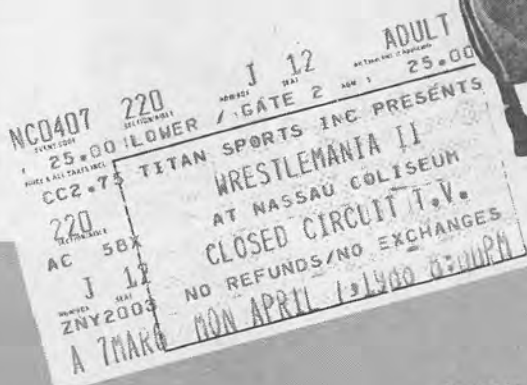
Right: Hulk Hogan and King Kong Bundy battled in a cage at WrestleMania II.



The Road Warriors captured \$1-million in prize money by winning the inaugural Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup tag team tournament ... The Machines invaded the WWF ... WrestleMania II was held in three locations: Chicago, Los Angeles, and New York; Hulk Hogan downed King Kong Bundy in a cage match in the main event ... Citing a conflict over the disqualification rule, the World Class Wrestling Association withdrew from the NWA ... Wrestling TNT, the WWF's crazed talk show on USA cable network, was canceled ... Japanese wrestling legend Antonio Inoki battled former boxing champ Leon Spinks October 9 in Tokyo; Spinks was pinned in the eighth round ... Capt. Lou Albano appeared in the film *Wise Guys* with Joe Piscopo ... Jesse Ventura starred in *The Predator* with Arnold Schwarzenegger ... Mid-South changed its name to the Universal Wrestling Federation ... The NWA unified the National and U.S. titles ... 70,000 fans packed Exhibition Stadium in Toronto to witness a WWF card headlined by Hulk Hogan vs. Paul Orndorff ... The Road Warriors first displayed their new steel-spiked leather vests ... A new NWA World title belt was created, costing a reported \$28,000 ... Gino Hernandez blinded Chris Adams by throwing a black liquid in his face ... Wrestling mourned the loss of Warren Bockwinkel, Tarzan Tyler, and Gino Hernandez ... Hulk Hogan suffered a concussion and spinal and rib injuries in an attack from King Kong Bundy in Arizona; he wrestled and defeated Randy Savage two days later in New York ... Rookie Lex Luger turned some heads with an upset victory over Bruiser Brody in a \$25,000 bounty match in Florida.



Above: The Road Warriors won the first Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup tag team tournament. Right: Jesse Ventura starred in *The Predator*.



August 9: Ric Flair defeats Dusty Rhodes for NWA title

July 26: Dusty Rhodes defeats Ric Flair for NWA title

June 29: Nick Bockwinkel awarded AWA title from Stan Hansen by default

October 14: Magnum T.A. career cut short by car crash

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January 20: First Martin Luther King day observed

January 28: Space shuttle *Columbia* explodes

April 28: Chernobyl nuclear accident

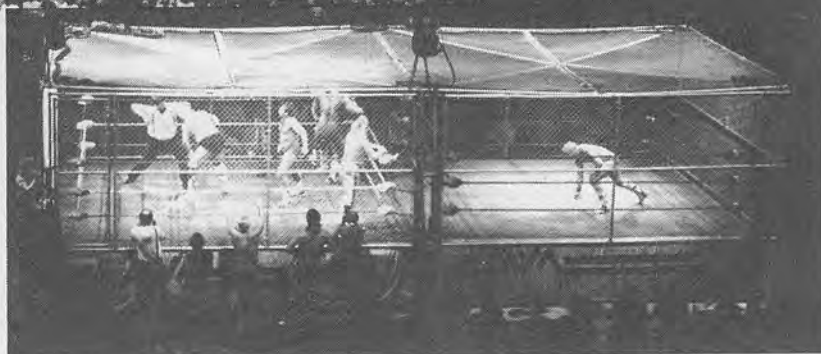
July 4: Statue of Liberty centennial celebration

November 3: Iranian arms-for-hostages deal made public

WrestleMania III drew a live crowd of 93,173 to the Pontiac Silverdome; Hulk Hogan pinned Andre the Giant in the main event... Kerry Von Erich made his return to Texas after being sidelined 17 months after his motorcycle accident... Jerry Lawler's head was shaved by Austin Idol and Paul E. Dangerously following his loss to Idol in a cage match... Magnum T.A. made an emotional appearance in Baltimore to greet the crowd at the second annual Jim Crockett Sr. Memorial Cup tag team tournament; Dusty Rhodes and Nikita Koloff defeated Tully Blanchard and Lex Luger in the tournament final... Ric Flair regained the NWA title from Ronnie Garvin at the fifth annual Starrcade event... The first-ever War Games bout was held on July 4 in Atlanta... Hacksaw Duggan and The Iron Sheik were arrested by New Jersey police on May 26; Duggan was charged with marijuana possession and drinking while driving; Sheik was charged with possession of cocaine and marijuana. Duggan received a conditional discharge; Sheik received one year probation... Wrestling mourned the tragic loss of Mike Von Erich; two weeks later, Kevin Von Erich returned to the ring in what he said was his "most difficult match ever"... Demolition appeared on the WWF scene and was instantly tagged as being imitation Road Warriors... Starrcade '87 became the NWA's first-ever pay-per-view television event... ABC-TV reporter John Stossel received \$425,000 from Titan Sports in an out-of-court settlement stemming from the December 1984 incident in which he was hit by David Shultz... Malcolm "King Kong" Kirk died in the ring in England on August 24.



Above: Dusty Rhodes and Magnum T.A. had an emotional reunion at the Crockett Cup. Left: WrestleMania III drew a record crowd to the Pontiac Silverdome. Below: "War Games/The Match Beyond" was the highlight of The Great American Bash.



FROM MAY 1987 ISSUE

NWA

- 1—Ric Flair
- 2—Nikita Koloff
- 3—Tully Blanchard
- 4—Barry Windham
- 5—Dusty Rhodes
- 6—Lex Luger
- 7—Bill Dundee
- 8—Kevin Sullivan
- 9—Dick Murdoch
- 10—Carlos Colon

WWF

- 1—Hulk Hogan
- 2—Randy Savage
- 3—Andre the Giant
- 4—Rick Steamboat
- 5—Kamala
- 6—Roddy Piper
- 7—Paul Orndorff
- 8—Jake Roberts
- 9—Hercules Hernandez
- 10—Billy Jack Haynes

AWA

- 1—Nick Bockwinkel
- 2—Curt Hennig
- 3—Jimmy Snuka
- 4—Col. DeBeers
- 5—Larry Zbyszko
- 6—Mt. Saib
- 7—Greg Gagne
- 8—Jerry Lawler
- 9—Super Ninja
- 10—Leon White

MOST POPULAR

- 1—Hulk Hogan
- 2—Barry Windham
- 3—Nikita Koloff
- 4—Rick Steamboat
- 5—Dusty Rhodes
- 6—Steve Williams
- 7—Kevin Von Erich
- 8—Terry Taylor
- 9—Jimmy Snuka
- 10—Ronnie Garvin

MOST HATED

- 1—Andre the Giant
- 2—Randy Savage
- 3—Ric Flair
- 4—Col. DeBeers
- 5—Lex Luger
- 6—Jake Roberts
- 7—Tully Blanchard
- 8—Terry Gordy
- 9—Brian Adias
- 10—One Man Gang

May 2: Curt Hennig defeats Nick Bockwinkel for AWA title

April 12: Mike Von Erich commits suicide

March 29: WrestleMania III live attendance: 93,173

November 26: Ric Flair defeats Ronnie Garvin for NWA title

September 25: Ronnie Garvin defeats Ric Flair for NWA title

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

January 5: President Reagan produces first U.S. trillion-dollar budget

March 19: Jim Bakker resigns his ministry

May 27: 37 sailors on U.S.S. Stark killed by Iraqi warplane missile

October 19: Stock market crashes

November 11: Van Gogh painting sets sales record: \$53.9-million

FROM SEPTEMBER 1988 ISSUE

NWA

- 1—Ric Flair
- 2—Barry Windham
- 3—Steve Williams
- 4—Sting
- 5—Lex Luger
- 6—Dusty Rhodes
- 7—Al Perez
- 8—Nikita Koloff
- 9—Larry Zbyszko
- 10—Mike Rotundo

WWF

- 1—Randy Savage
- 2—Honky Tonk Man
- 3—Ted DiBiase
- 4—Andre the Giant
- 5—Brutus Beefcake
- 6—Hacksaw Duggan
- 7—Jake Roberts
- 8—Rick Rude
- 9—Ultimate Warrior
- 10—Don Muraco

AWA

- 1—Jerry Lawler
- 2—Curt Hennig
- 3—Greg Gagne
- 4—Wahoo McDaniel
- 5—Bill Dundee
- 6—Eddie Gilbert
- 7—Jeff Jarrett
- 8—Soldat Ustinov
- 9—Max Pain
- 10—Dutch Mantel

MOST POPULAR

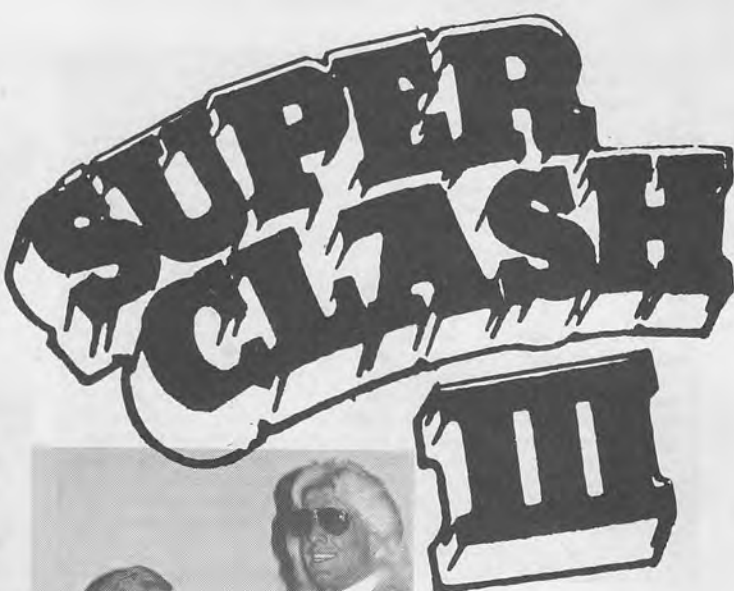
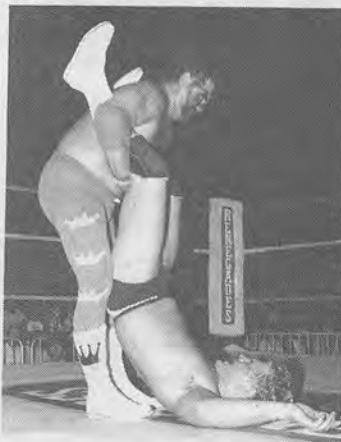
- 1—Hulk Hogan
- 2—Sting
- 3—Randy Savage
- 4—Lex Luger
- 5—Jerry Lawler
- 6—Hacksaw Duggan
- 7—Dusty Rhodes
- 8—Kerry Von Erich
- 9—Ultimate Warrior
- 10—Michael Hayes

MOST HATED

- 1—Barry Windham
- 2—Ted DiBiase
- 3—Andre the Giant
- 4—Ric Flair
- 5—Honky Tonk Man
- 6—Rick Rude
- 7—Eddie Gilbert
- 8—Al Perez
- 9—Curt Hennig
- 10—Iceman Parsons



Above: Brother Love arrived in the WWF.
Below: Jerry Lawler captured the AWA title from Curt Hennig.



Left: Ted Turner bought the NWA, making Ric Flair happy.

Turner Broadcasting System purchased the National Wrestling Alliance from Jim Crockett Promotions ... Hulk Hogan's first WWF title reign came to an end at the hands of Andre the Giant ... Pay-per-view wrestling became a television staple as the WWF and NWA hosted three PPV cards each ... Jerry Lawler realized a lifelong dream by capturing the AWA World title from Curt Hennig; he later defeated Kerry Von Erich at Superclash III to unify the AWA and World Class titles ... Nikita Koloff married Mandy Smithson on September 20 ... Carlos Colon wrestled Hercules Ayala in Puerto Rico in a ring surrounded by fire ... Brother Love appeared in the WWF ... Sting and Lex Luger defeated Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard to win the third annual Crockett Cup tournament ... Adrian Adonis died June 4 in an automobile accident in Newfoundland ... Bruiser Brody died July 17 after a dressing room stabbing in Puerto Rico ... Road Warrior Animal suffered serious eye injuries as the result of a melee with Warlord and The Barbarian during a weightlifting challenge on January 30 ... WrestleMania IV was held in Atlantic City's Trump Plaza ... Ultimate Warrior feuded with Bobby Heenan throughout the WWF, often stuffing him into a weasel suit after the bouts ... Dusty Rhodes won the third annual NWA Bunkhouse Stampede ... Forbes magazine estimated the net worth of the WWF as \$100-million ... King Kong Bundy appeared in the Richard Pryor comedy *Moving*, a Vendex personal computer commercial, and an episode of *Married With Children* ... Terry Taylor and Curt Hennig moved to the WWF.

March 27: Randy Savage wins WWF title tournament

February 5: Andre the Giant defeats Hulk Hogan for WWF title

May 9: Jerry Lawler defeats Curt Hennig for AWA title

July 17: Bruiser Brody murdered in Puerto Rico

March 15: NASA study released detailing ozone layer depletion

July 3: U.S. Navy missile downs Iranian airliner, killing 290

September 13: Hurricane Gilbert slams Mexico, killing hundreds

October 3: Space shuttle *Discovery* completes first mission since *Challenger*

November 8: George Bush elected President of the U.S.

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

Pay-per-view television reached new heights of influence as the NWA and WWF hosted five PPV cards each ... The Ric Flair-Rick Steamboat wars thrilled the wrestling world ... **Hulk Hogan** starred in *No Holds Barred*, which also led to a feud with co-star **Zeus** ... **The Megapowers**—**Hulk Hogan** and **Randy Savage**—split up in February ... **Brian Pillman**, **The Great Muta**, and **The Skyscrapers** arrived in the NWA ... **Chris Von Erich** trained for his pro debut ... **Robin Green** became **Woman**, cutting short a "love affair" with **Rick Steiner** ... **WrestleMania V** grossed \$25-million, as reported by *Forbes* magazine ... Wrestling mourned the loss of **Mandy Koloff**, **Paul Boesch**, and **Mildred Burke** ... **The Ding Dongs** appeared in the NWA and disappeared shortly thereafter ... **Dusty Rhodes** shocked the wrestling world by moving from the NWA to the WWF ... **Vince McMahon** appeared as a guest on *Late Night With David Letterman* ... **Eric Embry** won control of Texas wrestling by defeating **P.Y. Chu-Hi**; the new USWA effectively closed the door on **World Class** and the Texas era of **The Von Erichs** ... **Antonio Inoki** was elected to political office in Japan ... **Terry Funk** attempted to suffocate **Ric Flair** with a plastic bag on May 7 in Nashville ... **Wahoo McDaniel** announced his retirement ... The AWA began the **Team Challenge Series** ... *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly* newsletter commenced publication ... **Curt Hennig** and **Lanny Poffo** destroyed **Hulk Hogan's** WWF championship belt. □



Above: Rick Steamboat won the NWA belt from Ric Flair. Left: Rick Steiner met Robin Green. Bottom left: Eric Embry's victory over P.Y. Chu-Hi changed World Class to the USWA.

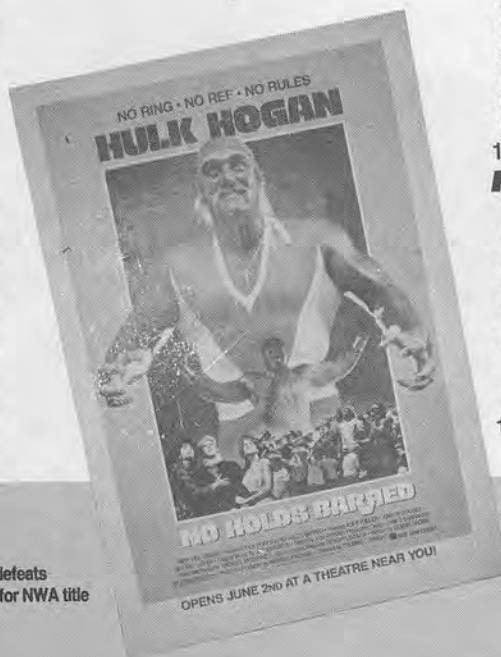


February 20: Rick Steamboat defeats Ric Flair for NWA title

May 7: Ric Flair defeats Rick Steamboat for NWA title

February 7: Larry Zbyszko wins battle royal for AWA title

April 2: Hulk Hogan defeats Randy Savage for WWF title



FROM AUGUST 1989 ISSUE NWA

- 1—Rick Steamboat
- 2—Lex Luger
- 3—Ric Flair
- 4—Sting
- 5—Michael Hayes
- 6—The Great Muta
- 7—Rick Steiner
- 8—The Iron Sheik
- 9—Butch Reed
- 10—Bob Orton Jr.

WWF

- 1—Hulk Hogan
- 2—Rick Rude
- 3—Randy Savage
- 4—Ultimate Warrior
- 5—Brutus Beefcake
- 6—Ted DiBiase
- 7—Jake Roberts
- 8—Hacksaw Duggan
- 9—Dino Bravo
- 10—Curt Hennig

AWA

- 1—Larry Zbyszko
- 2—Greg Gagne
- 3—Ken Patera
- 4—Wahoo McDaniel
- 5—Sgt. Slaughter
- 6—Tom Zenk
- 7—Col. DeBeers
- 8—Derrick Dukes
- 9—Brad Rheingans
- 10—Mike Graham

MOST POPULAR

- 1—Hulk Hogan
- 2—Sting
- 3—Ultimate Warrior
- 4—Lex Luger
- 5—Brutus Beefcake
- 6—Rick Steamboat
- 7—Rick Steiner
- 8—Hacksaw Duggan
- 9—Eric Embry
- 10—Dusty Rhodes

MOST HATED

- 1—Randy Savage
- 2—Ric Flair
- 3—Rick Rude
- 4—Michael Hayes
- 5—Big Bossman
- 6—Andre the Giant
- 7—Larry Zbyszko
- 8—Rick Martel
- 9—Kevin Sullivan
- 10—Ted DiBiase

JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC

January 20: George Bush inaugurated President of the U.S.

October 17: Earthquake hits San Francisco; World Series postponed

November 9: East-West Berlin passage allowed; Berlin wall crumbles

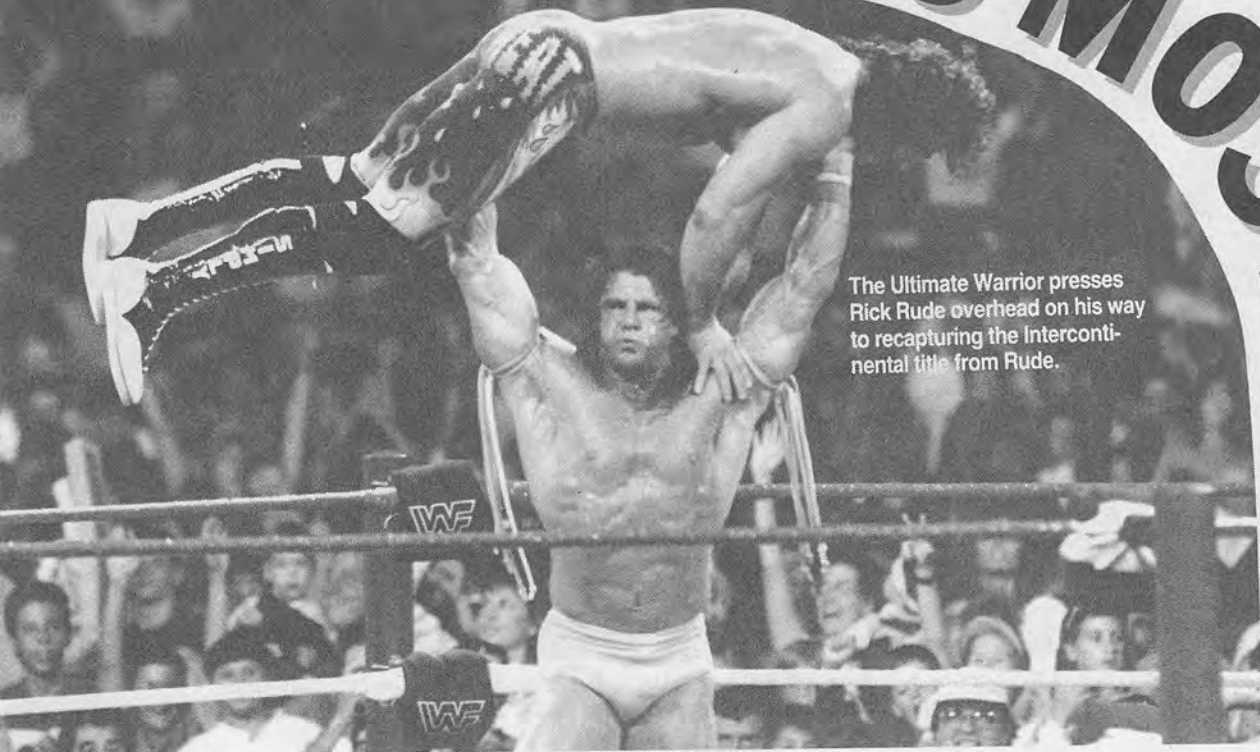
December 2: Bush-Gorbachev summit meeting

WHY BOBBY HEENAN IS



Bobby Heenan, one of the world's best-known managers, reached a new pinnacle of success last year when he controlled two of the three WWF titles. Then his empire suddenly crumbled, inviting snickers that "The Brain's" streak was just a momentary stroke of luck

WRESTLING'S MOST OVERRATED MANAGER!

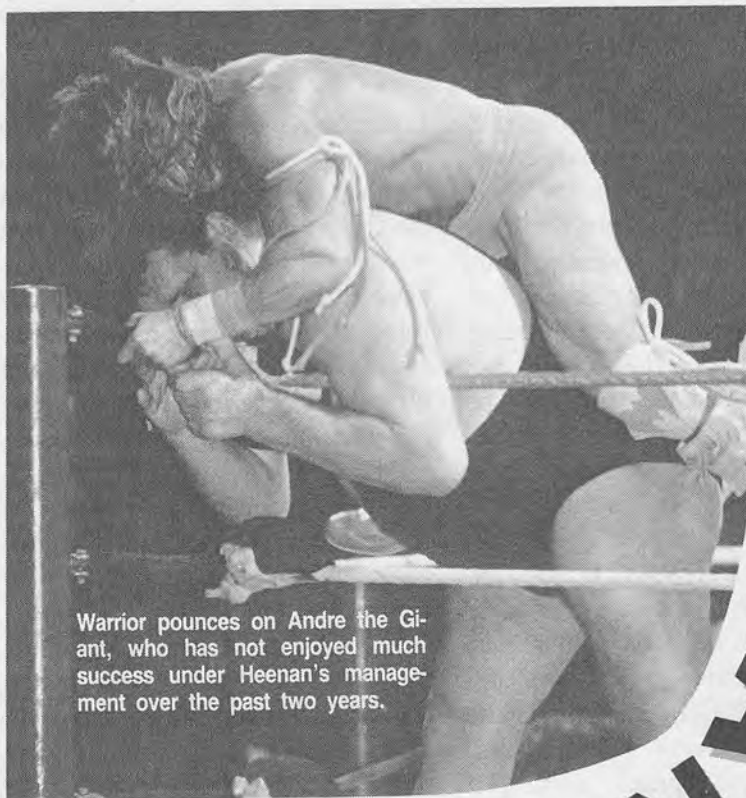


The Ultimate Warrior presses Rick Rude overhead on his way to recapturing the Intercontinental title from Rude.

By Eddie Ellner

"RAPID" RALPH ERADY, once a decent college basketball player, now a high-paid efficiency expert, recalls his first memory of Bobby Heenan.

"I was looking for the latest *Street & Smith Basketball Digest* at the newsstand back in 1973 when I saw a copy of *Inside Wrestling*, or maybe it was *The Wrestler*, with Heenan's picture on the cover. His face was unrecognizable, a solid mask of blood. I was fascinated. What could have inspired a man to dish out such punishment to another man? And how could anyone stand the pain and humiliation of such a beating? I bought the magazine and was introduced to Bobby Heenan and the Heenan philosophy. It became immediately understandable why Heenan inspired such hatred in his opponents. Seventeen years have not made much of a difference. He was overrated as a wrestler, and he's just as overrated as a manager."



Warrior pounces on Andre the Giant, who has not enjoyed much success under Heenan's management over the past two years.



Heenan is proud of the work he has done with Haku and Andre, but since Rude lost the Intercontinental title and The Brain Busters dropped the tag team belts, "The Brain" has been desperate for a winner.

Just six months ago, Bobby "The Brain"/"The Weasel" Heenan was on top of the world. His roster of talent seemed unbeatable: Rick Rude controlled the Intercontinental title and the hearts of females around the world. Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson were the WWF World tag team champs, hailed by many as the best tag team in the world. Andre the Giant continued to plague Hulk Hogan, ever a threat to regain the WWF title he once sold to Ted DiBiase. Haku terrorized the entire federation. Even longtime preliminary scrub Steve Lombardi, newly dubbed "The Brooklyn Brawler," had begun to earn the fear and respect of his opponents.

Heenan owned the contracts to them all. Weasel-minded Heenan, perennially overlooked during the annual distribution of awards and accolades, suddenly found himself voted *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Manager of the Year. *Voted!* By the fans! Heenan managed to weasel himself 16,824 votes to edge out Gary Hart for the honor. Heenan, the guy who, for years,

couldn't get himself elected WWF dogcatcher!

"A few years back, at David Letterman's anniversary show at Radio City Music Hall," recalls Bill Apter, "Letterman introduced Heenan from the audience. You should have seen how excited he was. When the world's hippest talk-show host turns the house lights on you, it means you're famous. Heenan had always made the most of his public appearances, and this was no exception. He remained standing, soaking in as much limelight as possible, until Letterman had to request he sit back down. It was really a gross display of grandstanding; typical Bobby Heenan."

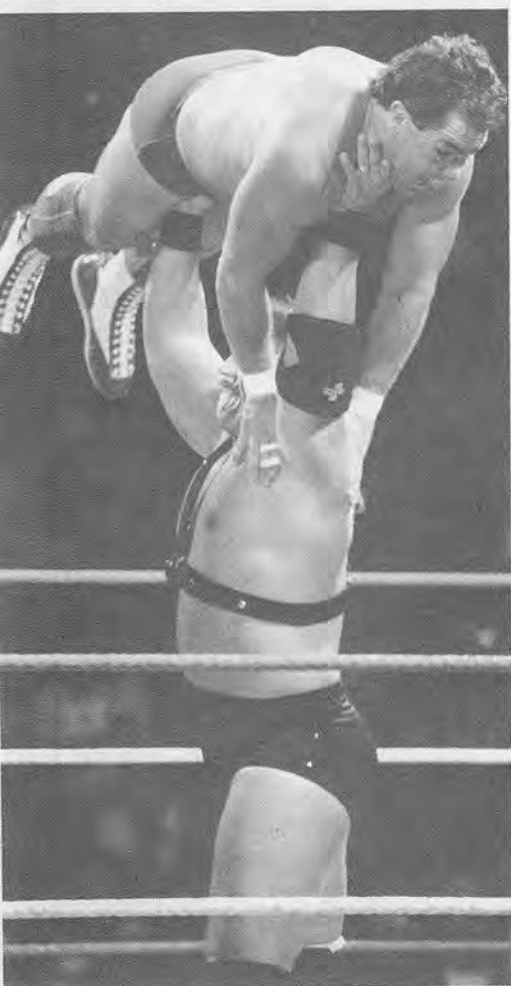
At that time, Heenan's pursuit of title belts was simultaneously furious and futile. "He couldn't get the gold," Apter continued. "It was a constant source of disgust and frustration for him. But Heenan never really managed in the traditional sense. He created the illusion of management through a smokescreen of interference. He was practically third man in the ring in

many title matches, and I think that cost him."

Even close scrutiny from the referees couldn't stop Heenan's stable from running roughshod through the WWF. "It's as if he found a bottle on the beach, rubbed it, and a genie granted him three wishes," Apter said.

Rick Rude was Heenan's first wish. Rude's upset victory over Ultimate Warrior gave Heenan his first WWF championship—and his first set of justified bragging rights. "You would have thought he pinned the Warrior," said one WWF wrestler.

Heenan's next stroke of luck came purely by accident. The Brain Busters—ex-Four Horsemen Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson—needed a man to book their matches in the WWF. "I swear, it could have been anyone," said a WWF insider. "I think Tully and Arn flipped a coin to see who they'd call." Hardly in need of management, the veteran duo quickly established their supremacy in the WWF tag team wars. But to hear Heenan crow, one might have thought



Smash presses Tully Blanchard (left). Depending on whom one listens to, The Brain Busters either quit or were fired. The Warrior backflips Heenan (above left). Heenan's advice to Steve Lombardi (above right) hasn't done him much good lately. The "Brooklyn Brawler" has been on a losing streak.

it was he, not Arn Anderson, who pinned Smash to capture the tag team belts.

Rounding out the Heenan stable were his "projects"—Andre the Giant, Haku, and "Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi. Of Lombardi, Heenan was especially proud. "Lombardi was going to embody all of Heenan's brilliant strategies," said one wrestler mockingly. "He was going to turn a bum into a star."

By virtue of his champions, Heenan was able to book Lombardi into some semifinal matches. The longtime prelim bum fared favorably, but never attained the success Heenan envisioned. Lombardi's failure was a signal of darker times to come.

"A lot of people were astounded when Heenan was named Manager of the Year," said Apter. "The perception in the sport is that he is not a good ring tactician. His success proves the old baseball adage that a manager is

only as good as the team he puts on the field. Whereas Paul Ellering and Jim Cornette can adapt different strategies for different situations, Heenan had trouble thinking on his feet. People respected him as a personality, as a spokesman for the sport. But as the world's greatest manager? No way."

In short order, Rude was defeated by Ultimate Warrior, The Brain Busters dropped the belts to Demolition, Andre the Giant became a public embarrassment, as did Haku. And the Brooklyn Brawler fast became the Brooklyn Bawler as Lombardi returned to preliminary status. No one seemed to notice he had gone.

And Heenan? Bobby hardly mourned his losses. After all, "The Brain" has been proclaimed the World's Greatest Manager in 1989.

Now that all his other trophies have disappeared, it's an accolade he may choose to cling to for some time to come. □

HOTSEAT

RIC FLAIR

"ONE DECADE OF DOMINANCE ISN'T ENOUGH!"

SOON AFTER THE '80s began, Ric Flair became the NWA U.S. champion for the fourth time. It would be the first real indication that the "Nature Boy" was about to become the most dominant wrestling force of modern times.

Assuming he completes 1989 as champion, Flair will have held the NWA title for 2,686 of the decade's 3,653 days, a staggering 73 percent.

Six times during the '80s Flair would become the NWA World champion, trailing only Harley Race (a seven-time champion) and tying Lou Thesz for the most times a man has worn the prestigious belt. In claiming his titles, Flair defeated such stars as Race, Dusty Rhodes, Kerry Von Erich, and Rick Steamboat. Rarely did a month roll by that Flair did not make headlines. He also was instrumental in the forming of The Four Horsemen, the rulebreaking organization that dominated the sport from 1986 to 1988.

As the decade drew to a close, Flair earned the distinction as *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* "Wrestler of the Decade," a selection made by the magazine's editors. Flair was presented with a trophy during *Clash of the Champions IX: "New York Knockout"* on November 15 in Troy, New York, but his happiness over receiving the award from our sister publication would not last long.

After defeating Terry Funk in an "I Quit" match, Flair was attacked by The Great Muta and Lex Luger—who also destroyed his trophy. Now, Flair is seeking revenge—while vowing to hold on to his belt well into the new decade.

Associate Editor Bob Smith traveled to New Haven, Connecticut, to speak with Flair as he prepared for a title defense against Muta.

“

Hey, if you know Ric Flair at all, you have to realize that I want to achieve more than any man who ever wrestled.

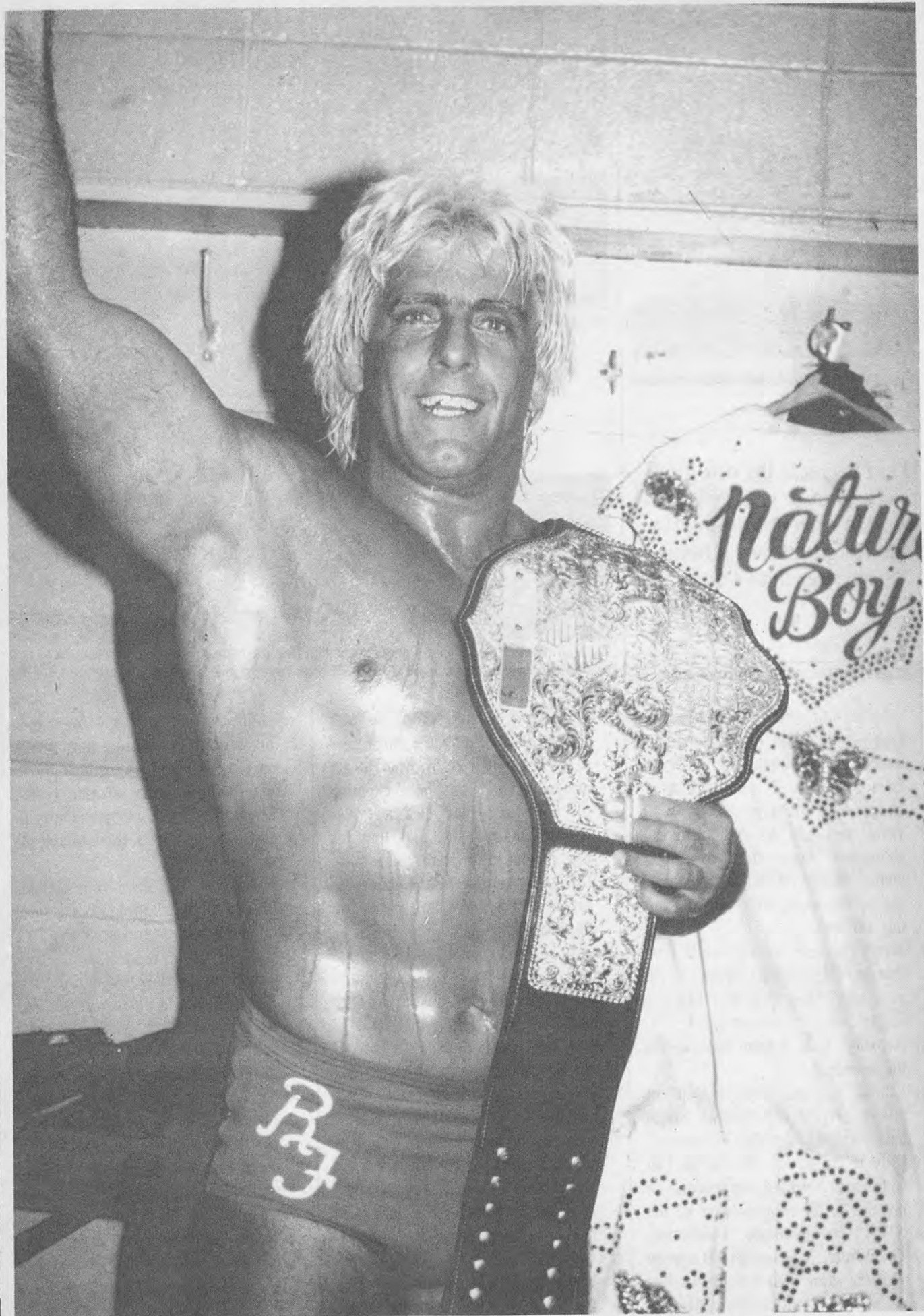
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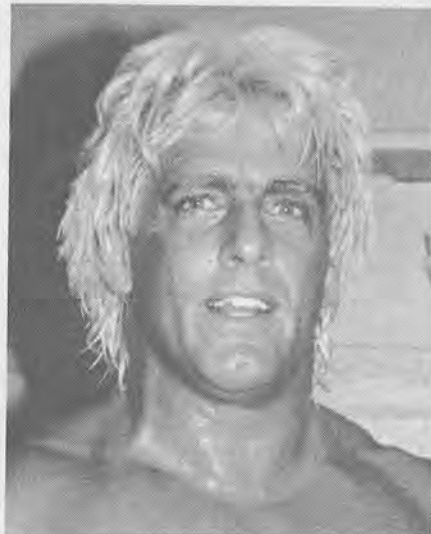
Q: Ric, I wish I could congratulate you for winning the "Wrestler of the Decade" trophy, but there's not much left for you to be proud of. With a couple of swipes of a chair, Lex Luger smashed the thing into pieces.

A: Some champion, isn't he? You know, I've held the same U.S. title that he holds four times, and each time I valued it every bit as much as the World title I hold now. Apparently, just being U.S. champion isn't enough for Luger. Like I said back in Troy, winning that award was one of the proudest achievements of my career. To be selected by the *PWI* editors as the greatest star of an entire decade means that I had to beat out literally hundreds of top grapplers. I really do appreciate it, the same way I appreciate the way the fans have been reacting to me lately. But as you said before, Bob, there's no trophy now, because that musclehead smashed it up. Not to worry. I'll get my hands on that big idiot before long.

Q: One of the things you said during your acceptance of the trophy that I thought was very interesting was that you were afraid that winning the award would "age" you. Are you worried that, after 18 years in the sport, you might be slowing down?

A: Not really. If anything, I think I'm in better shape now than at any other time in my career. Hey, if you know Ric Flair at all, you have to realize that I want to





“

[Lex] Luger is the one guy I really want to get my hands on. He's been claiming for too long that he's a better wrestler than I am.

”

achieve more than any man who ever wrestled. One decade of dominance isn't enough for me, my friend. I think I would be very happy if I could go the next 10 years and still be NWA World champion when the year 2000 comes along. Of course, this year alone, my work will really be cut out for me.

Q: That's for sure. As the year begins, you have Luger and Muta hot on your trail. How is it that Muta is getting the first opportunity?

A: Actually, Bob, I have little say in the matter.

Q: Really? I would expect that an NWA World champion would have total say in whom he wrestles.

A: Only to an extent. As far as I'm concerned, picking opponents to my title is the responsibility of the NWA championship committee. Thankfully, they usually set me up with the same men I want to wrestle, anyway. As you know, Muta is



Ric Flair has Lex Luger in a vulnerable position on the ropes. The feud between these two has been going on for years, and Flair will soon have to face a renewed challenge from the arrogant "Total Package."

undefeated in the NWA, so he's getting the first matches. But Luger is the one guy I really want to get my hands on. He's been claiming for too long that he's a better wrestler than I am, and that his title means more than mine does. I'm going to give him a chance to prove it. I'll make him choke on his insipid words.

Q: How do you respond to his charges that you've been ducking him? He's been the U.S. champion since last May, and the owner of that belt has traditionally been ranked as the number-one contender. But Luger has yet to receive a single title bout. Why is that?

A: Well, there have been a hell of a lot of extenuating circumstances, as you know. When Luger was battling Michael Hayes over the U.S. belt last spring, I was laid up in a hospital bed after Terry Funk broke my neck. I was out of action for 76 long days, and after that I

naturally wanted to get my hands on Funk. Thankfully, the NWA agreed, and Funk was the man to get the next series of title bouts. Shouldn't I have an opportunity to face the man who tried to cripple me?

Q: Absolutely. But have your feelings toward Funk changed at all since he shook your hand at the end of your "I Quit" match?

A: (pauses) I do have to admit that I've mellowed a bit toward the old bugger. After all, it takes a real man not only to quit, but to admit to the world that you've been beaten. And, as everybody saw, that's exactly what Funk did. He even said I was one hell of a man. My heart is telling me that I should probably forgive Funk, especially when I consider what Gary Hart did to him after that match. But my head is still telling me to beware. Funk has caused me as much pain as any opponent I've ever



Flair shoulderblocks Terry Funk. The champion says he respects Funk, despite what the wily Texan has done to him in the past.

faced in my career. This is a man who twice literally tried to murder me in cold blood, as far as I'm concerned. Obviously, this is a man I'll never be able to trust. But I *do* respect him. He's a great wrestler, and he was a fine champion in his day. But now the time has come to move on to new challenges.

Q: And tonight, you will face the challenge of The Great Muta. You've had a few matches against him already, and he has yet to be pinned—thanks to outside interference from Gary Hart and Lex Luger, which gets him disqualified when he's in serious trouble.

A: That's right. The Japanese are a noble, proud people. This guy is the exception. Muta's a terrific young talent, and that flying moonsault from the top rope is one of the finest maneuvers I've ever seen. But he doesn't have any guts at all. When I lock him in my figure-four leglock, he cries just like a baby. One of these days, I'm gonna put it on him for so long that it'll snap one of his spindly legs like a twig. *Then* let's see him go diving off those ropes. Then, when I get through with him, Luger's finally gonna get his shots.

Q: Believe me, the fans are really looking forward to seeing you and Luger lock up again. It was during 1988 that Luger came within inches of beating you for the World title, most notably at the Great American Bash in Baltimore when Maryland State Athletic Commissioner Ray Ianucci stopped the match because of a cut on Luger's forehead. To this day, people say you were lucky to escape with your title.

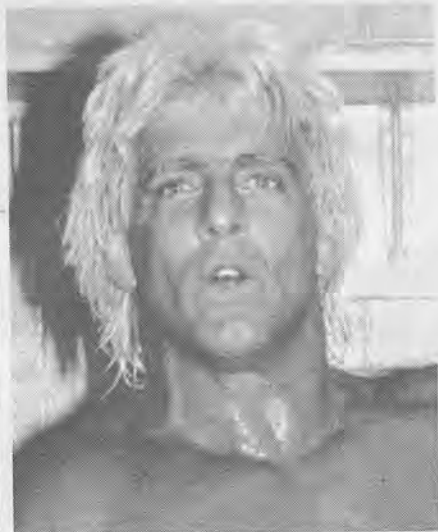
A: Hey, that was a great match. And, yes, luck did enter into it a great deal. But what everybody forgets about is that when the money's on the line and there's no tomorrow, I have defeated Luger every time.

Q: But Luger is a much improved wrestler since the last time you faced him in 1988.

A: I wouldn't argue with that. But he still doesn't have the kind of intestinal fortitude it takes to be a great champion. Look at how he's defended his U.S. belt. When he beat Brian Pillman at Clash IX, he had to pick up a folding chair and smash Brian over the head with it. Now, I've done a lot of questionable things in my time, and I'm certainly no angel. But Luger is



Flair slaps a leglock on The Great Muta. Flair says he's fully prepared for his series of matches with the young Japanese star.



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[Terry] Funk has caused me as much pain as any opponent I've ever faced in my career. But I *do* respect him.

”

6'5" and 268 pounds. He's got as much natural ability as anyone in this game. So why should he have to use a chair? It just doesn't make sense—unless he's a born coward, which surely seems to be the case.

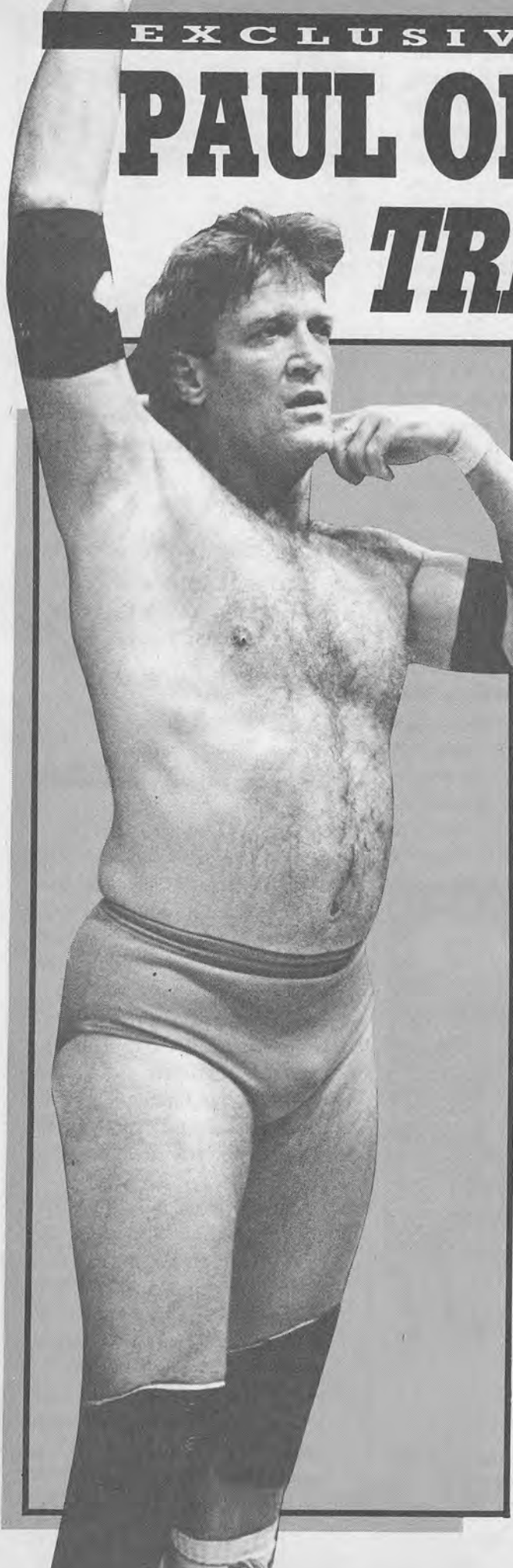
Q: Your comments bring to mind an interesting scenario that's happening right now. For one of the few times in your career, you're perceived as a fan favorite. How have the cheers of the fans affected you—or do they really make a difference?

A: Oh, I hear them. Frankly, I enjoy it quite a bit. But it's not like I've never been cheered before. Even when I was a member of The Four Horsemen, I had my fans. But it's different now. You editors have selected me as "Wrestler of the Decade," and the fans have sanctioned that honor with their applause. And believe me, one honor without the other just wouldn't be the same. □

EXCLUSIVE COVERAGE:

PAUL ORNDORFF'S *TRIUMPHANT* RETURN!

By Craig Peters



THE JOKE WAS over, everybody had a good laugh—even Kerry Von Erich—and now Kerry was ready to find out who his real opponent would be. The names on the contract said Kerry Von Erich vs. Paul Orndorff, but Kerry knew it was a hoax because Orndorff hadn't wrestled in almost two years.

"C'mon, guys, this is either an old contract or somebody's idea of a joke," Kerry said. "Which one is it?"

The promoter and matchmaker both shook their heads.

"Orndorff?" Von Erich said, suddenly beginning to understand that when he had signed to wrestle on November 17 in Highland Heights, Ohio—against an opponent to be named later—that opponent would be the long-retired "Mr. Wonderful."

"How can that be? The guy's a fossil! Half the world thinks he's dead, and all he's done for the past two years is run a bowling alley. What's going on here?"

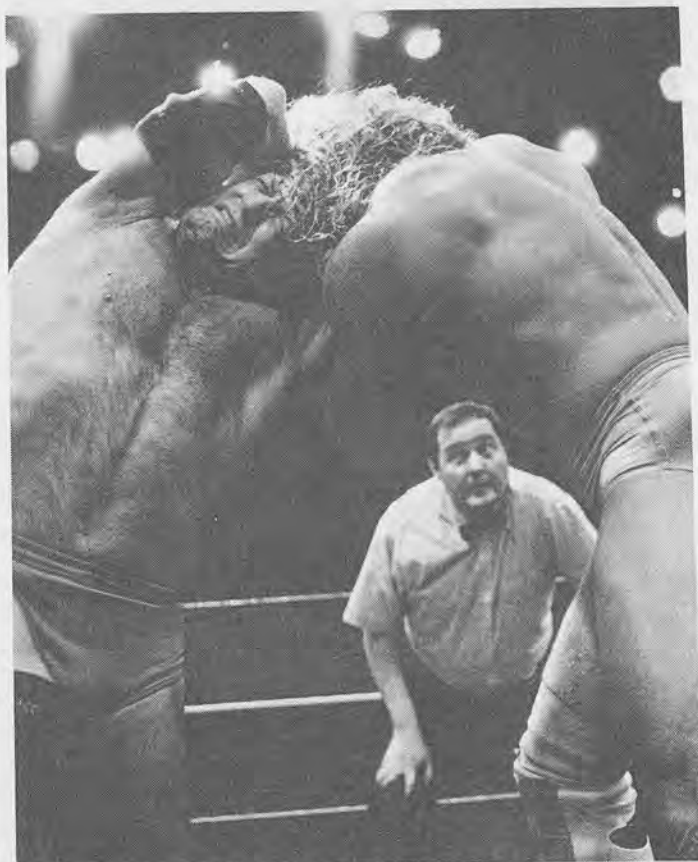
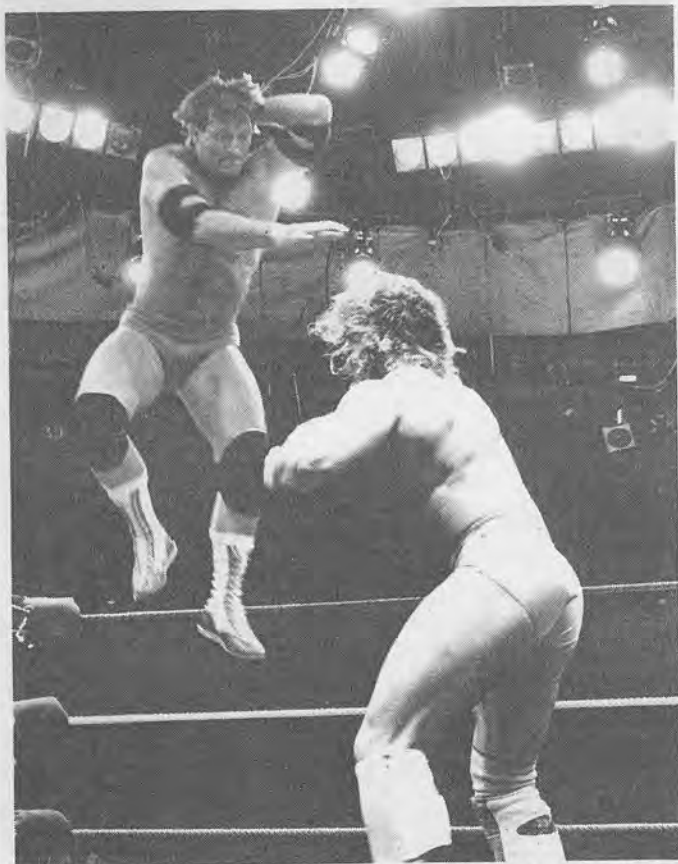
Kerry's surprise was only partly due to Orndorff's recent reclusiveness. The other factor was that Kerry had never wrestled Orndorff, so why would they wrestle now? And, in fact, why would Orndorff want to make his long-awaited return against Kerry?

Simply because he wanted to.

"When you're the promoter of an independent federation like I am, you need as many top stars as you can get," Great Lakes Wrestling Federation promoter Jim Brown said. "Orndorff's an old buddy of mine, so I called him up and asked him if he'd like to wrestle. He said, 'Sure, get me a title shot,' so I did."

"The longer I stayed away from the ring, the more I missed it," said Orndorff, who last wrestled in the WWF under the management of Sir Oliver Humperdink. He is best remembered as the hated "Mr. Wonderful" who turned against Hulk Hogan in sickening

Kerry Von Erich couldn't believe his eyes when he saw who he was scheduled to wrestle. He thought it was a joke, but it was true! Paul Orndorff was back, and his assault on Von Erich's USWA Texas title was no laughing matter



"Mr. Wonderful" Paul Orndorff leaps off the top rope with an elbows mash for Kerry Von Erich (above left). The two lock up in the center of the ring (above right). It was Orndorff's first match in two years, and he was very effective.

fashion, then battled the "Hulkster" before 70,000 fans in Toronto.

"When Jim called me, I told him that I wasn't going to come back to wrestle some bum," Orndorff continued. "I wanted to wrestle a top star and I wanted it to be an important match, not some tuneup. Listen, I've stayed in good shape and I still hit the mats once or twice a week, but I missed the competition. When he called me back and told me I could wrestle Von Erich for the USWA Texas title, I told him I'd take it. Never hesitated."

Kerry, after the initial shock, welcomed the chance to wrestle Orndorff. He saw it as an opportunity to add an important name to the list of men he has beaten. "I never like to take anyone lightly," Von Erich said, "but I didn't think Orndorff had much chance of winning my belt, considering the circumstances."

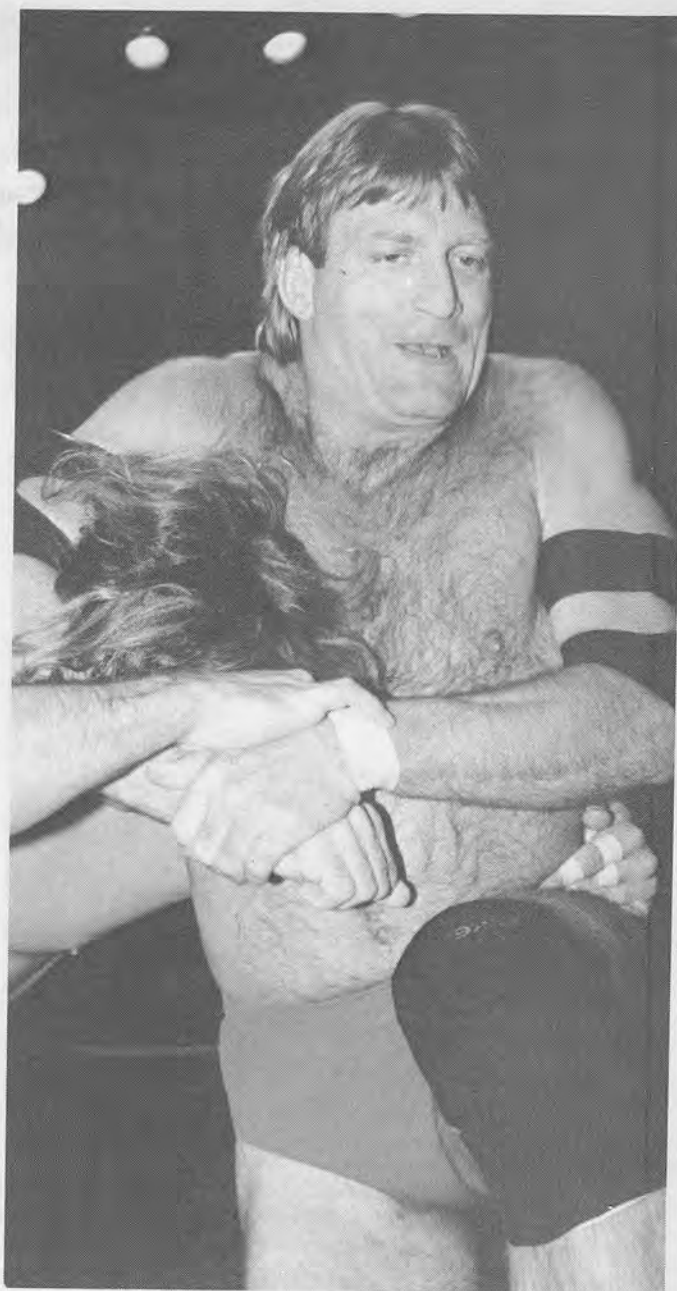
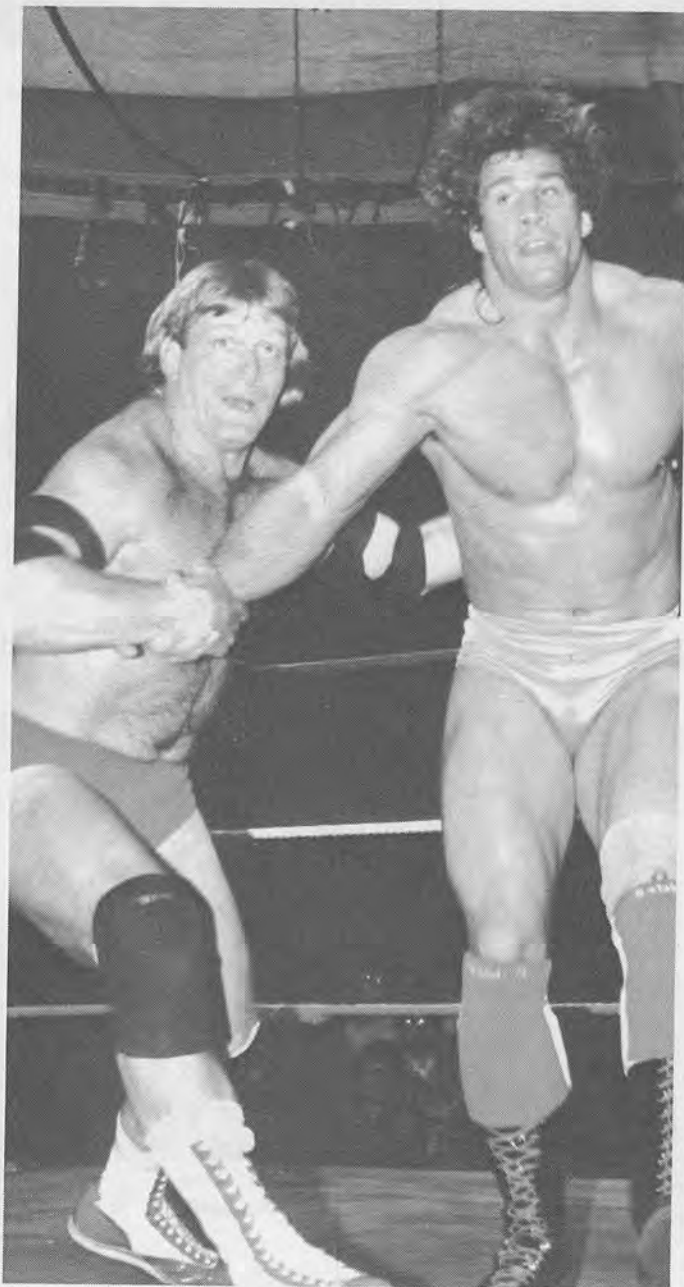
He was right. Von Erich lost by disqualification when he tossed Orndorff over the top rope, but re-

tained the title. The previous 15 minutes of action, however, were surprisingly intense. Orndorff seemed a little uncomfortable, but wasted no time coming after Kerry, who seemed surprised by his opponent's aggressiveness.

"Personally, I thought he'd just sit back and try to avoid getting hurt," Kerry said. "I figured he needed the paycheck and that's why he was *really* there."

But that statement alone gives away Von Erich's ignorance about Orndorff, an egotistical man who enters the ring only to win. Orndorff had an outstanding career and was a top NWA and WWF star. He made more money in one evening in Toronto than most wrestlers take home in an entire year. Orndorff was in Ohio because he planned to strip the title off of Von Erich's waist.

And if Kerry didn't know that by the end of the match, he learned it immediately afterward when Orndorff, in classic Orndorffian fashion, attacked referee Lou Kokely. Orndorff was enraged that he wasn't giv-



Orndorff whips Von Erich across the ring (above left) and headlocks the Texas champion (above right). Von Erich was disqualified for tossing Orndorff over the top rope, but he didn't lose the title. That made Orndorff so angry that he attacked the referee.

en the belt because of Kerry's disqualification.

"The USWA rules state very clearly that the title can change hands on a disqualification," Orndorff protested.

He was right about the USWA rules, but this match was fought under the sanctioning rules of the Great Lakes Federation. In other words, Orndorff needed to pin Von Erich or beat him by submission.

"If I had known that," Orndorff said, "I would have grabbed the rope and kept myself from going over."

Instead, he grabbed Kokely and probably shook a few years of life out of the poor referee. Fortunately, Kerry came to Kokely's aid.

"I think what we saw there was a frustrated man," Von Erich said of Orndorff.

"What you saw was a man that was duped," Orndorff said. "And as for Von Erich, I heard what he

said about me, and I'm not gonna forget it. If he has the guts to wrestle me again, I want him. Shame is, I don't think he has the guts. No Von Erich ever did."

It sounded like the old "Mr. Wonderful" again: shooting his mouth off, challenging opponents, brutalizing referees, bad-mouthing officials. Some things never change.

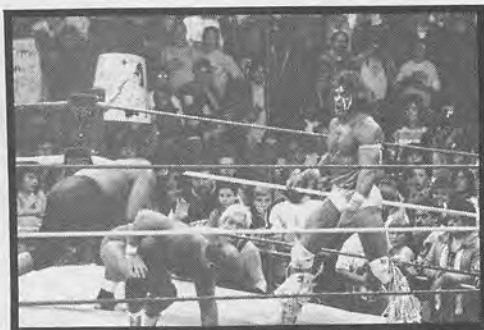
"One of the reasons I left this sport was because I was sick of the raw deal people were giving me," Orndorff said. "It got really bad with Hogan, and obviously it hasn't changed a bit. Great thing about bowling is that you can knock down the pins, set 'em up, and knock 'em back down again. That's what I'd like to do to Von Erich. Tell the boy to stand clear."

Somehow, one gets the impression Kerry Von Erich is no longer laughing. □

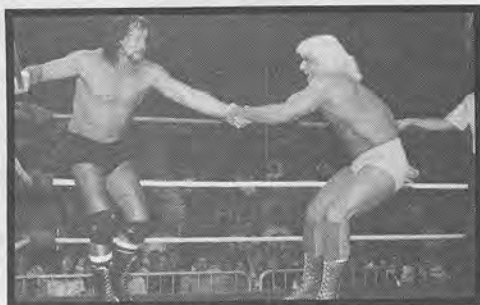
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ONE ON ONE



"How does it feel to get a taste of your own medicine? I promised you'd pay for what happened in Florida."

—Stan Lane

"WHAT THE WORLD needs now is love, sweet love," the song goes, but there's no love lost between *The Dynamic Dudes* and *The Midnight Express*—and particularly between Stan Lane and Johnny Ace.

The friction between the two men started years ago in Florida, when Ace was working his way up the ratings and Lane was taking a brief break from ring action. Lane had a girlfriend he loved; Ace stole her heart, and Lane was left alone. He eventually returned to the NWA and his partnership with Bobby Eaton, but he never forgot the girl—or what Ace did to him.

So when Ace turned up in the NWA and started teaming with Shane Douglas, Lane saw an opportunity for revenge. Jim Cornette, already working on a plan to jolt the Express out of one of the worst cases of career doldrums they've experienced, became "adviser" to Ace and Douglas—*The Dynamic Dudes*—while retaining his duties as manager of the *Midnights*. Cornette's job was to make it appear as if he were getting closer to making the Dudes his number-one team. Lane and Eaton's job was to make it seem as if they were mad at Cornette.

The plan came to a brutal climax in late-November. The *Midnights* signed to wrestle the Dudes; Cornette watched the match from a neutral corner. He was, however, anything but neutral. Late in the match, Cornette charged into the ring and socked Douglas with his tennis racket.

Cornette had shown his true colors.

The Express were once again back in rulebreaking form, and Lane enjoyed sweet revenge: Ace and Douglas looked like fools. But this feud is far from over, as you'll agree when you read how Lane and Ace tear at each other . . . "One on One."

STAN LANE:

Well, Mr. Backstabber, how does it feel to get a taste of your own medicine? I promised you'd pay for what happened in Florida. You made me look like a fool, but look who's wearing the donkey ears now! *Ha! Ha!*

JOHNNY ACE:

I may have donkey ears, but you're a total ass, Lane. So what? So you and Cornette managed to fool me and Shane. Big deal. Still doesn't change the facts, pal.

SL: What facts are those, pal?

JA: The fact that given a choice, one of the most beautiful women in Florida chose *me* over *you*. And she told me all about the time you and her took that weekend vacation in Bermuda and . . .

SL: Hold it right there, Ace, this is a family magazine, and I don't want you dragging that girl's name through the mud. Just because she had the bad taste to go out with you doesn't mean she has to get in the middle of our problems. The facts are that I trusted you, but you were plotting to get her all the time. Now you trusted Jimbo, but he made you eat dirt. Well, we were plotting to get *you* all the time, and I'd say we did pretty well. You guys had to be dreaming to even think Jimbo would manage you.

V ONE



"How do you manage to squeeze both you and your ego into those wrestling trunks?"

—Johnny Ace

It's a joke.

JA: Not as big a joke as you guys are. If you didn't have Cornette slamming me and Shane in the backs all the time with his loaded tennis racket, you'd *never* be able to beat us. Not once in 1,000 matches.

SL: That happens to be untrue, Ace, but it's also not the point. Winning and losing had nothing to do with what happened. The goal was to parade you like a bunch of clowns in front of millions of people, and that's what we did. The fact that we won the match, too, was just an added bonus. The only thing I'm sorry about is that Jimbo didn't hit you, although the look on your face when he socked Douglas was something to behold. You looked like somebody just

took away your favorite toy.

JA: A bunch of clowns? Seems to me that the people know clowns when they see them, Lane, and most of the fans are cheering me and Shane. So you fooled us? Like I said, big deal. It's like coming up to a kid from behind and knocking his schoolbooks out of his arm. What now? How about a fair match, in a cage so Cornette can't interfere. Or how about we put Cornette in a cage over the ring? Let's have the fans see you lose cleanly in a fair match, *then* we'll know who the *real* fools are.

SL: Are you dreaming, Ace? Do you have any idea who you're talking to? The Midnight Express is the only team to ever hold the World and U.S. tag team titles. They made us give up the U.S.

belts because we were dominating too much. Listen, buddy, maybe you got the upper hand on me with a woman one time, but when it comes down to the wrestling, The Dynamic Dudes are simply runners-up. Ace, you were a flagbearer, a *flagbearer*, for The Shepherders! It's amazing they even let you wrestle.

JA: Hey Stan, I have a question for you.

SL: What's that?

JA: How do you manage to squeeze both you *and* your ego into those wrestling trunks?

SL: Not ego, Ace, facts. Facts, and you can look 'em up yourself. By the way, Johnny, you and Douglas figured out the trick to those skateboards yet?

JA: Sure have, Stan. At least I didn't learn martial arts from watching reruns of *Kung Fu* in the middle of the night. That kick of yours is pathetic. Telegraph it any sooner and . . .

SL: You might actually figure out what I'm doing? Ace, we could broadcast our moves a week in advance on national TV and you *still* wouldn't know what to do. I think the Cornette deal pretty much puts your intelligence in perspective. You and Douglas talk big, but you don't have a thing to back up your words. Even the fans think you're ridiculous. Even after what happened, they're still on our side.

JA: That's very debatable, Lane. And even if there are a few fans left cheering for you, once me and Shane are done with you, we'll have them on *our* side—just like I had you-know-who on my side in Florida. *Heh, heh, heh.*

SL: Listen, Johnny, this is ridiculous. Me, Bobby, and Jimbo had our fun with you guys, and now it's time to go on to more serious matters. The only thing we're worried about now is getting back those World tag team belts. As far as I can tell, you two aren't even in the picture.

JA: Hey, buddy, you may think you're through with us, but we're not through with you. Not by a longshot. We've got some business to settle before either of us goes for the title, and you can bet the Dudes will have those belts first. □

DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 10)

rematch didn't promise to be much better. Of course, I'm writing this *before* the big event, so you'll know when you read this if it was or wasn't.

My guess is that "No Holds Barred: The Movie, The Match" didn't have a healthy impact on the already-glutted pay-per-view industry.

And, lest we forget, this presentation was brought to you by McMahon, the man who said in the November 1989 issue of *Gentleman's Quarterly* magazine: "You can't ask people to pay for something that doesn't even have a right to be on *network* television. They're diluting the concept of pay-per-view, and that hurts the industry as a whole."

Two events McMahon cited as examples of pay-per-view glut were the Liza Minnelli/Frank Sinatra/Sammy Davis Jr. concert and Robbie Knievel's motorcycle jump over the fountains at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. Taken individually, the concert featured three of the greatest show business stars of the century; Knievel's jump was infinitely more interesting than *No Holds Barred*.

(By the way, McMahon had incredible nerve to appear in *GQ* wearing the most hideous clothes you'll ever see: a mustard three-piece suit—complete with lapel-bedecked vest—and a multicolored striped three-piece suit. Money, ego, and arrogance often make a man think he can do anything without looking like an idiot. In this case, McMahon was sorely wrong.)

Unworthy events *will* hurt the pay-per-view industry and, in turn, hurt wrestling, because the sport has invested so much of its future in PPV's future. There is a public perception that pay-per-view programs are premium events. Otherwise, why would so much mon-

ey be charged to view them? And at the beginning, I would guess, people ordered programs merely because they were on pay-per-view. They *had* to be good.

Then we were dealt, in almost startling succession, pay-per-view golf, pay-per-view mud wrestling hosted by Jessica Hahn, and some awful pay-per-view boxing cards.

Fortunately, wrestling was the

styrofoam 2 x 4s recently went gold. Previously torn Hulk Hogan T-shirts were the hottest thing on the market last year. Maybe Vince is right. Maybe the capacity for fooling WWF fans is limitless.

But I doubt it. Even the richest man's pocket has a limit. Once McMahon has shown that he's perfectly willing to sell the fans a bill of goods and not come up with a quality product, the money



Hulk Hogan's performance in *No Holds Barred* won't win him an Oscar, but it will make him a lot of money. Dave Rosenbaum calls the *No Holds Barred* pay-per-view event a ripoff.

one player in this game that kept its pay-per-view events special. Not this time. Figuring that most movies are available on pay-per-view for \$4.95, the actual value of the \$14.95 movie/match extravaganza was about \$5.95.

Well, McMahon has now reached the point where he feels he can feed the fans anything and they'll buy it. Insiders report that sales of Hacksaw Duggan

will start pouring in a little more slowly. Hopefully, this won't affect the federations that still give the fans quality for their wrestling dollar.

We can also hope that the two suits McMahon modeled for *GQ* don't accurately represent the rest of his wardrobe. If so, then our hard-earned money is going into the pockets of some pretty shoddy tailors. □

BACK ISSUES OF

Inside Wrestling

Be sure to fill in the gaps in your collection of **INSIDE WRESTLING**, "The magazine that rips the lid off pro wrestling." Get all the information you need to keep up on the pro wrestling scene. Don't be left out. Avoid sellouts—order today!

September 1980/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.
November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.
January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.
April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.
May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.
June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.
September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.
February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.
March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.
April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.
May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.
June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.
July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.
August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.
September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.
October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.
November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.
December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.
February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.
March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.
April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.
May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.
June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.
July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.

August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.
September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.
November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.
December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.
March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.
May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.
June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.
July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.
August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.
September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.
October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.
November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.
January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.
May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlingmania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.

November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.
January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.
February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.
March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.
April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.
May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.
June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.
July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.
August 1986/Stories include: Wrestlingmania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.
September 1986/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.
October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Lugar, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.
November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.
December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.
February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.
March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.
April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.
May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.
June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.
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August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.
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December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.
January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.
February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.
March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.
April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.
May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.
June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.
August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk.
October 1988/Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.
November 1988/Stories include: Kerry vs. Lawler, Windham, Luger, Muraco.
December 1988/Stories include: Powers of Pain, Ultimate, Flair, Piper.
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February 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Bossman, Tully & Arn, Warriors-Windham-Sting.
March 1989/Stories include: Hennig, Midnights-Midnights, Fuller & Golden, Ultimate.
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October 1989/Stories include: Hall & Pillman & Vicious, Hennig, Swats vs. Warriors, Rhodes.
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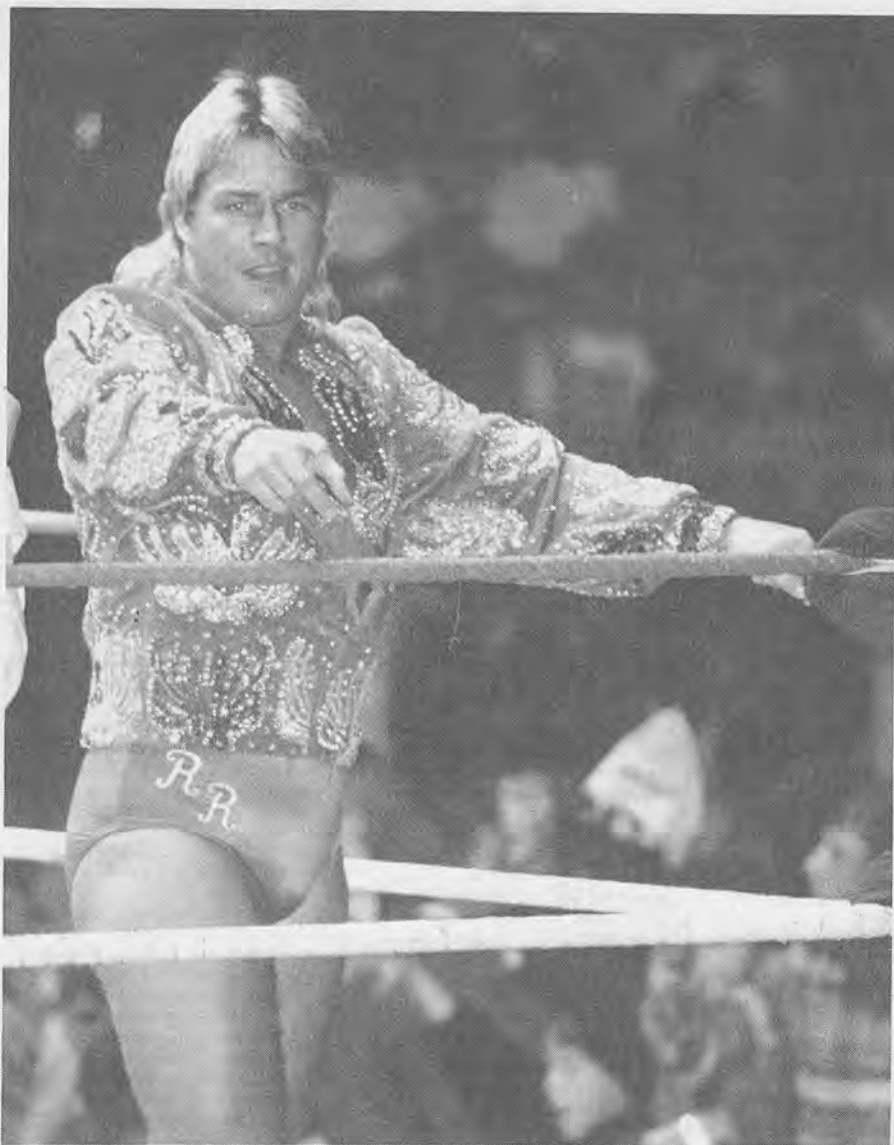
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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 20)



"Red Rooster" Terry Taylor, a Survivor Series participant, was once a Liz Hunter contact, but that was before he came to the WWF.

driver wasn't exactly my idea of a good working environment. But on second thought, it really wasn't going to be much different from the average WWF crowd (with one exception: the seven-year-old was wearing a Ric Flair T-shirt).

Luckily for me, the cabbie's TV was pay-per-view ready, meaning I wouldn't have to waste more valuable time hunting down a cable-TV office to give me a converter box. Thing was, it wasn't much fun sitting in a strange room with a suspicious wife looking down my forehead. Got the feeling she thought I was more than just a

fare.

But I felt right at home once the card started. If there's one thing that'll always grab the attention of a room full of kids, it's a wrestling show. The crowd started roaring at the Rosemont Horizon and I had the feeling I was right there. Then the questions started coming.

"Who are you?" the seven-year-old asked.

"I'm Liz Hunter," I answered somewhat hesitantly. The idea of lying crossed my mind, mainly to avoid the questions I hoped to avoid in the first place when I

skipped the aforementioned turkey banquet.

"Oh," he said, his voice full of disappointment. "Do you know Bill Apter?"

I ignored that and tried to keep my attention on the card. The first match was a compilation of wrestlers who don't have me on their Rolodex systems anymore. Rhodes and Taylor on one side, Martel on the other. Rhodes and Brutus Beefcake survived this one, but it's hard to say why this match had to take place. Filler, I guess.

Actually, it was *all* filler. This is usually one of the WWF's better shows, but it wasn't this year. Bad. Hulk Hogan took a beating from Zeus and The Powers of Pain, but somehow was standing at the end. Only thing is, it wasn't the end. There were still two matches to go, and this was rapidly developing into a Thanksgiving to forget.

The kids were on the floor playing with their action dolls. The cabbie was snoring in his easy chair, gilet dressing stuck to his shirt. The wife was upstairs, humming along to Tom Jones, probably fantasizing her brains out, and trying to get the dishes done before Arsenio.

Meanwhile, out in Chicago, The Rude Brood was beating Roddy's Rowdies and The Ultimate Warriors were having their hands full with The Heenan Family, but still getting by. All irrelevant. We'll see what happens at The Royal Rumble.

When it ended, the kids were asleep on the floor, the cabbie was still storing his brains out. Went upstairs, found the wife eyeing me again, and was about to let myself out when I realized I had no way to get home.

"Got a phone?" I asked.
"Need to get a cab." □

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August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo, Steamboat & Rich, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blaisse.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera, Rick Steamboat, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski, Rhodes vs. Garvin, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham, Mil Mascaras, Valentine, Omdorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton, Rick Martel, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff, Tommy Rich, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko, Roddy Piper, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog, Tommy Rich, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper, Harley Race, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel, Dusty Rhodes, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race, Rick Martel, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine, Greg Valentine, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater, Ted DiBiase, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering, Jimmy Valiant, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen, Jerry Lawler, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack, Kerry Von Erich, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel, Sgt. Slaughter, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana, Road Warriors, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. Rick Martel, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, Jimmy Snuka, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham, Dusty Rhodes, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams, Rick Steamboat, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage, Ric Flair, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura, Great American Bash, Von Erich, Omdorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hack-saw Duggan, Hulk Hogan, T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff, Mike Von Erich, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair, Wendi Richter, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat, Road Warriors, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich, Hulk Hogan, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy, R & R Express, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes, Randy Savage, Luger vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd, Nikita Koloff, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Luger, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll, British Bulldogs, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arm-Ole.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds, Roddy Piper, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth, UWF Tournament, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Omdorff.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger, Dusty & Nikita, DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams, Andre-Hogan, UWF Tourney, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan, Magnum T.A., Can-Am's, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers, Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious, Hogan-Andre, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase, Ric Flair, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele, Nikita Koloff, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors, Ted DiBiase, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, Randy Savage, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel, Lex Luger, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

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June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard, Hulk Hogan, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig, Hogan vs. Andre, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez, Savage & Hogan, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

October 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ultimate Warrior, Sting, Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

November 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Midnight Express, Hogan, Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

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February 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jake Roberts, Luger, Hogan-Savage, Kevin Von, Beefcake-Bass.

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JUNE 1989

June 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat, Hogan vs. Savage, Warriors, Zbyszko, Rhodes.

July 1989/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper, Steamboat, Hogan, Paul E., Dream Tournament, Studd, Muraco.

August 1989/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger, Hogan, Ultimate, Steamboat-Flair, Road Warriors, Rhodes.

October 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Rude, Luger vs. Hogan, Snuka, Sting, Lawler vs. Perez, Page.

November 1989/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair, Rhodes, Steiner, Luger vs. Steamboat, Ultimate, Fuller-Jarrett.

December 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jimmy Snuka, Luger, Vicious, Muta, Sting, Beefcake & Hogan, Tully & Arn.

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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 18)



Funk's wife, Vicki, was glad to have him home after he decided to hang up the wrestling tights. At that time, he was committed to pursuing a movie career.

Funk responded to his critics by getting into the best shape of his life, returning last year for a series of title matches against Flair that would be voted Feud of the Year.

"Funk's comeback was one of the highest high points of the year," said *Inside Wrestling* Senior Editor and longtime Funk friend Bill Apter. "He had so much working against him. There were the injuries, the critics, his age. It's quite amazing. He didn't lose a step in his ring style, and he gave Flair as many sleepless nights as anyone ever has."

While the media rightfully takes to task athletes who retire and unretire to the detriment of themselves and their sports, Funk

stands as testament to the endurance of the human spirit, the triumph of the mind and body over the inexorable pull of time. "The Insider" salutes Terry Funk for his monumental comeback and unprecedented display of courage and skill, and upon his sweaty brow proudly bestows the first Golden Rope, to be awarded annually to the wrestler who best exemplifies the spirit of professional wrestling. A more worthy first recipient I cannot imagine.

Having examined those qualities that endear pro wrestling to so many millions, it is only right we target those stinking lumps who try so hard to diminish the talent pool. Thus, the following

news item:

While the entire pay-per-view world watched enthralled, Andre the Giant Idiot absorbed three Ultimate Warrior clotheslines and fell out of the ring to the Rosemont Horizon floor with a thunderous splat. Wrestling fans, showing an uncharacteristic collective sense of humor, immediately bombarded the offices of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* magazine and demanded that "Plodding Clod of the Year" be added to the annual year-end achievement awards.

"I'm surprised Andre lasted as long as he did," guffawed Scott Lund of Laguna Beach. "Usually Ultimate only has to blast him once in order to knock him down. I guess Andre really got his adrenaline pumped for the Survivor Series!"

I guffawed right along with Mr. Lund. Andre's recent pathetic attempts at wrestling should once and for all answer the giant question: Should the Idiot continue to wrestle?

The answer, cry wrestling fans the world over, is a resounding: "NO!"

The good, the bad—now how about the ugly? In a recent Madison Square Garden bout, Randy Savage was defeated by Hacksaw Jim Duggan. Critics of mine complain that I beat a subject to death. My apologies; who cares what they think, anyway? In the case of Savage, I remain obsessed. How a man with more natural ability in his left elbow than Hacksaw Duggan could muster in five lifetimes could allow himself to degenerate to this state is beyond my powers of understanding.

To all my readers, young, old, and otherwise, there is an important lesson here to be learned: Skill without desire is far less worthy than desire without skill.

Randy Savage has precious few years left to absorb that one. ☐

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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 5)

ROCK 'N' ROLL RUINS

You folks really put your foot in your mouth from time to time, but when you printed that article hailing The Rock 'n' Roll Express in the January issue ("Rock 'n' Roll Revival: Morton & Gibson's Incredible Comeback"), you really blew it. Robert Gibson and Rick Morton didn't last a month as CWA tag team champions. If you ask me, The Blackbirds—Ice-man Parsons and Brickhouse Brown—ran them right out of the area.

I wish you people would face the music: The Rock 'n' Rolls just don't have it anymore. They were great seven years ago, but times change, and so does wrestling. Like Andre the Giant, they are far past their prime and should retire.

WAYNE OLMAYRE
Curtis, AR

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David Sammartino whips The Jaguar across the ring. Reader Mary Gilbert is impressed with the way Sammartino has improved his physique and his wrestling.

THE LEGACY CONTINUES

I don't read enough in your magazines about how vastly David Sammartino has improved. He's the Southern champion right now, and I think he's never looked better during his career.

If you see a picture of him from five years ago you see a big man, but he also was a youngster who had a lot of baby fat. David has replaced all that with rock-hard muscle, and he also seems quicker and more agile than ever before.

I can't believe this fine young man

isn't a top contender for the NWA, AWA, or WWF World titles, but I'm not complaining. I'm having a great time watching him wipe out the competition in the Georgia All-Star area and the SCW.

MARY GILBERT
Marietta, GA

SNAKE BAIT

If you ask me, Ted DiBiase has been playing Jake Roberts for a fool all along. Jake thinks he's out for re-



Jerry Lawler has lost the support of reader Quentin Cambria, who says he no longer trusts "The King." Lawler is feuding with ex-friends Dutch Mantel and Bill Dundee.

venge against the "Million-Dollar Man," as you reported in the story in the January edition ("Jake Roberts vs. Ted DiBiase: Cold-Blooded Obsession!"). But everybody seems to forget the one factor in the feud that should end it very quickly: DiBiase is three times the wrestler Roberts is.

Sure, Roberts is mad at DiBiase for injuring his neck, and who could blame him? But that won't help him when Ted locks him in his figure-four, any one of 100 suplexes, or any of his other expertly applied scientific holds. DiBiase may be evil, but he's a great wrestler.

That's something Roberts could never be.

BOB GOODWYN
Calgary, Alberta

WILD KINGDOM

In your article "Lawler vs. Embry: The King Of Memphis vs. The King Of Texas" in your January issue, it was written that Jerry Lawler is the most popular man in Memphis. Well, that may have been true a few months ago, but it certainly isn't the case today. Lawler is losing a lot of people who used to support him.

How can we trust Lawler after he turned against Dutch Mantel, a man who tried to help "The King" out of trouble? Frankly, I hope that Eric Embry beats Lawler for the USWA title. If he does, the wrestling world will finally have the kind of "king" that all fans can look up to.

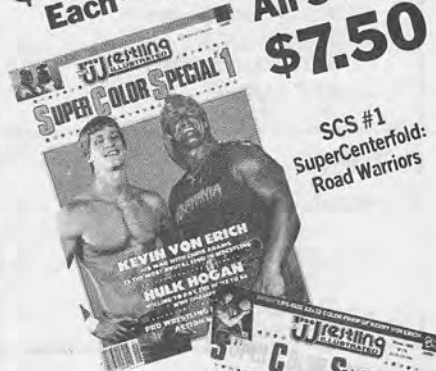
QUENTIN CAMBRIA
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INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
NWA World champion
- 2—**HULK HOGAN**
WWF World champion
- 3—**LEX LUGER**
U.S. champion

- 4—**ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
WWF Intercontinental champion
- 5—**CURT HENNIG**
No. 2 contender: WWF title
- 6—**STING**
No. 1 contender: U.S. title
- 7—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
AWA World champion

- 8—**THE GREAT MUTA**
NWA TV champion
- 9—**JERRY LAWLER**
USWA champion
- 10—**KERRY VON ERICH**
USWA Texas champion
- 11—**RODDY PIPER**
No. 4 contender: WWF title

- 12—**LARRY CAMERON**
Stampede N. American champ
- 13—**DINO BRAVO**
No. 3 contender: WWF title
- 14—**BILL DUNDEE**
CWA champion
- 15—**SCOTTY THE BODY**
PNW champion

NWA

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 3—**THE GREAT MUTA**
245, Tokyo, Japan

- 4—**STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
- 5—**TOM ZENK**
237, Minneapolis, MN
- 6—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK
- 7—**BUZZ SAWYER**
240, St. Petersburg, FL

- 8—**BRIAN PILLMAN**
226, Cincinnati, OH
- 9—**MIKE ROTUNDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
- 10—**ROAD WARRIOR ANIMAL**
285, Chicago, IL
- 11—**KENDALL WINDHAM**
220, Sweetwater, TX

- 12—**DAN SPIVEY**
300, Tampa, FL
- 13—**TOMMY RICH**
248, Hendersonville, TN
- 14—**NORMAN THE LUNATIC**
380, Saginaw, MI
- 15—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
252, Boston, MA

AWA

- 1—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC
- 3—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow

- 4—**PAUL DIAMOND**
230, Thunder Bay, Ontario
- 5—**JONNIE STEWART**
242, Pacific Palisades, CA
- 6—**BARON VON RASCHKE**
271, W. Berlin, Germany
- 7—**THE TROOPER**
243, Charlotte, NC

- 8—**KOKINA MAXIMUS**
340, Samoa
- 9—**TOMMY JAMMER**
265, St. Joseph, MO
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245, Minneapolis, MN
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285, Moscow, Russia

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248, Cape Town, S. Africa
- 13—**MIKE GEORGE**
265, St. Joseph, MO
- 14—**JAKE MILLMAN**
223, Minneapolis, MN
- 15—**NORD THE BARBARIAN**
316, Bozeman, MT

WWF

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 2—**ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
- 3—**CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN

- 4—**DINO BRAVO**
256, Montreal, Quebec
- 5—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Glasgow, Scotland
- 6—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 7—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN

- 8—**BAD NEWS BROWN**
280, New York, NY
- 9—**RICK MARTEL**
236, Quebec City, Quebec
- 10—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 11—**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
273, San Francisco, CA

- 12—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 13—**TITO SANTANA**
245, Toluca, Mexico
- 14—**HERCULES HERNANDEZ**
255, Tampa, FL
- 15—**TED DIBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB

MOST POPULAR

- 1—**HULK HOGAN**
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2—**RIC FLAIR**
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
- 3—**STING**
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular

- 4—**RODDY PIPER**
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
- 5—**THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
- 6—**BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
- 7—**RICK STEINER**
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular

- 8—**DUSTY RHODES**
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
- 9—**ERIC EMBRY**
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular
- 10—**BRIAN PILLMAN**
Last month: No. 11 Most Popular
- 11—**KERRY VON ERICH**
Last month: No. 12 Most Popular

- 12—**SGT. SLAUGHTER**
Last month: unrated
- 13—**NORMAN THE LUNATIC**
Last month: unrated
- 14—**JAKE ROBERTS**
Last month: unrated
- 15—**JEFF JARRETT**
Last month: unrated

MOST HATED

- 1—**LEX LUGER**
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
- 2—**CURT HENNIG**
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated
- 3—**RICK RUDE**
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated

- 4—**THE GREAT MUTA**
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
- 5—**RANDY SAVAGE**
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
- 6—**ZEUS**
Last month: unrated
- 7—**JERRY LAWLER**
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated

- 8—**ANDRE THE GIANT**
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
- 9—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated
- 10—**DINO BRAVO**
Last month: unrated
- 11—**BUZZ SAWYER**
Last month: unrated

- 12—**BIG BOSS MAN**
Last month: unrated
- 13—**BILLY TRAVIS**
Last month: unrated
- 14—**SCOTTY THE BODY**
Last month: No. 10 Most Hated
- 15—**LARRY CAMERON**
Last month: No. 15 Most Hated

TAG TEAMS

- 1—**DEMOLITION**
WWF World tag team champions
- 2—**RICK & SCOTT STEINER**
NWA World tag team champions
- 3—**THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**
No. 3 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 4—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**
No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 5—**DOOM**
No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title

- 6—**MIKE ENOS & WAYNE BLOOM**
AWA World tag team champions
- 7—**THE POWERS OF PAIN**
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 8—**ROBERT FULLER & BRIAN LEE**
USWA tag team champions
- 9—**BOBBY & JACKIE FULTON**
No. 1 contenders: AWA tag team title
- 10—**THE HART FOUNDATION**
No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title

- 11—**MICHAEL HAYES & JIMMY GARVIN**
No. 4 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 12—**THE BLACKHARTS**
Stampede International tag team champions
- 13—**STEVE DOLL & REX KING**
PNW tag team champions
- 14—**THE BUSHWHACKERS**
No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 15—**ANDRE THE GIANT & HAKU**
No. 4 contenders: WWF tag team title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices... Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended December 2, 1989

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

TOSHIKAKI KAWADA & SAMSON FUYUKI
(October 20, 1989; from Dan Kroffat & Doug Furnas; Nagoya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(October 11, 1989; from Genichiro Tenryu; Yokohama, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Genichiro Tenryu & Stan Hansen)

ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MASANOBU FUCHI

(October 20, 1989; from Joe Malenko; Nagoya, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(October 11, 1989; from Genichiro Tenryu; Yokohama, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Lioness Asuka)

* ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MINAMI TOYOTA

(November 18, 1989; tournament final over Mika Takahashi; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

YUMIKO HOTTA & MITSUKO NISHIWAKI
(July 18, 1989; from Akira Hokuto & Shizuka Minami; Tokyo, Japan)

AWA TV CHAMPION: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by Greg Gagne)

AWA WORLD CHAMPION: LARRY ZBYSKO

(February 7, 1989; battle royal victory to fill vacant title; St. Paul, MN)

AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE DESTRUCTION CREW

(October 1, 1989; tournament final over Greg Gagne & Paul Diamond; Rochester, MN)

AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER

(November 26, 1988; from Madusa Miceli; Bloomington, MN)

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION: BRUCE HART

(October 14, 1989; from Gama Singh; Lethbridge, Alberta)

CONTINENTAL HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DENNIS CONDREY

(July 22, 1989; from Tom Prichard; Dothan, AL)

CONTINENTAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JIMMY GOLDEN & BRIAN LEE

(August 26, 1989; from Steve Armstrong & Tracey Smothers; Dothan, AL)

* CWA CHAMPION: BILL DUNDEE

(November 19, 1989; from Dirty White Boy; Memphis, TN)

CWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(most recently held by The Rock 'n' Roll Express)

ICW CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS

(February 11, 1989; from Joe Savoldi; Presque Isle, ME)

ICW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE HELD UP

(most recently held by Vic Steamboat & Joe Savoldi)

IWGP CHAMPION: BIG VAN VADER

(August 10, 1989; from Riki Choshu; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

MASA SAITO & SHINYA HASHIMOTO
(September 20, 1989; from Riki Choshu & Takayuki Izuki; Osaka, Japan)

IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: NAOKI SANO

(August 10, 1989; from Jushin Riger; Tokyo, Japan)

NWA TV CHAMPION: THE GREAT MUTA

(September 3, 1989; defeated Sting for held up title; Atlanta, GA)

NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RIC FLAIR

(May 7, 1989; from Rick Steamboat; Nashville, TN)

NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RICK & SCOTT STEINER

(November 1, 1989; from Michael Hayes & Jim Garvin; Atlanta, GA)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: SCOTTY THE BODY

(October 14, 1989; from Rex King; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: REX KING & STEVE DOLL

(September 16, 1989; over Scotty the Body & The Grappler for held-up title; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(October 11, 1989; from Genichiro Tenryu; Yokohama, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INT'L TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

JUMBO TSURUTA & YOSHIKI YATSU
(July 22, 1989; from Stan Hansen & Genichiro Tenryu; Kanazawa, Japan)

PWF CHAMPION: STEVE KEIRN

(July 9, 1989; from Kendall Windham; Orlando, FL)

* PWF TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE BOUNTY HUNTERS

(November 14, 1989; Lou Perez & Mark Starr; Tampa, FL)

STAMPEDE NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: LARRY CAMERON

(April 28, 1989; from Davey Boy Smith; Calgary, Alberta)

STAMPEDE INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE BLACKHARTS

(September 29, 1989; from Sumo Hara & Benkai Sasaki; Calgary, Alberta)

U.S. CHAMPION: LEX LUGER

(May 22, 1989; from Michael Hayes; Bluefield, WV)

USWA CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER

(December 13, 1988; from Kerry Von Erich; Chicago, IL)

* USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: ROBERT FULLER & BRIAN LEE

(December 1, 1989; tournament final; Dallas, TX)

USWA TEXAS CHAMPION: KERRY VON ERICH

(October 20, 1989; from The Punisher; Mesquite, TX)

* WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: MIGUEL PEREZ JR.

(November 4, 1989; from Rip Rogers; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE MERCENARIES

(October 7, 1989; from Miguel Perez Jr. & Hurricane Castillo Jr.; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SUPER MEDIC

(July 29, 1989; from Chicky Starr; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: INVADER I

(October 7, 1989; from Ivan Koloff; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: CHRIS & MARK YOUNGBLOOD

(October 7, 1989; from Rip Rogers & Abughdadien; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

* WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON

(November 23, 1989; over Steve Strong for held-up title; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER

(July 28, 1987; from Monster Ripper; Trinidad, West Indies)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: ULTIMATE WARRIOR

(August 28, 1989; from Rick Rude; East Rutherford, NJ)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN

(April 2, 1989; from Randy Savage; Atlantic City, NJ)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DEMOLITION

(October 2, 1989; from Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson; Wheeling, WV)

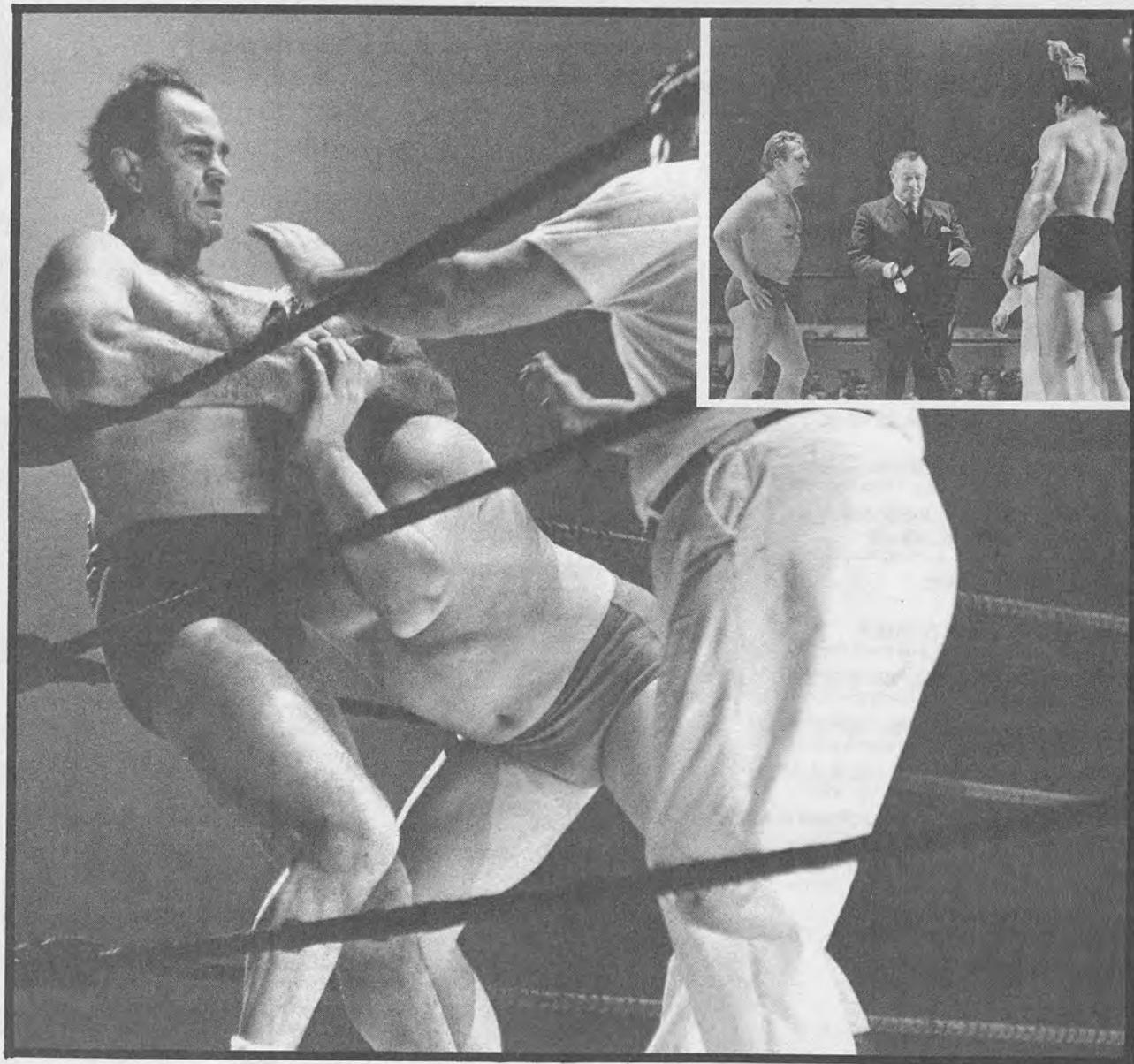
WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ROCKIN' ROBIN

(October 7, 1988; from Sherri Martel; Paris, France)

Blast From The Past

This Month In Wrestling History

“The End Of An Era—And A New Beginning”



LOU THESZ vs. BUDDY ROGERS

January 24, 1963

Referee Tiger Tasker tries to get Lou Thesz and Buddy Rogers out of the corner during this classic battle for the NWA World title in Toronto, Canada. Thesz upset Rogers for his sixth NWA belt (inset), but the result of this bout didn't make a group of East Coast promoters very happy. Feeling that Thesz would not defend the title regularly in their region, the promoters seceded from the NWA and started their own organization. It was the World Wide Wrestling Federation, known to millions of fans today as the WWF.

Ironically, the “Nature Boy” won a tournament a few months later to become the WWWF's first champion.

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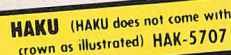


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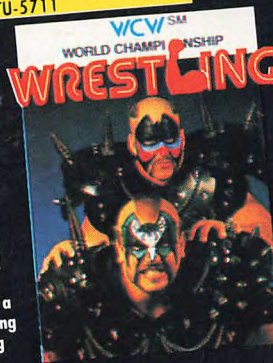
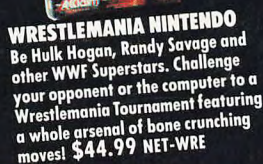
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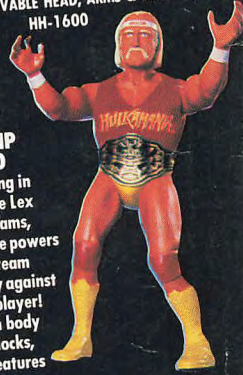
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OUR CARD NUMBER	MO	YR.					
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Have you filled out your card no. completely?							
						TOTAL	(U.S. Dollars Only)
							(Sorry No C.O.D.'s)
						SIGNATURE _____	

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